



Bulletin of the

American Iris Society

Number 276 January 1990

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Arilian Acres

Howard Shockey

4611 Rio Grande Lane, N.W.,

Albuquerque, N.M. 87107



SNOW MOON
H. Shockey '90 - TB



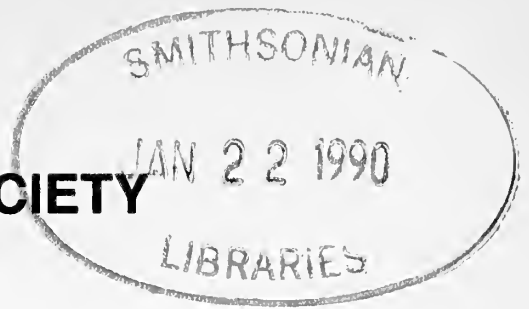
TURKISH HEART
H. Shockey '90
AB 1/2 (OGB)



TURKISH PENDANT
H. Shockey '90
AB 1/2 (OGB)

Please see advertisement on page 104

**BULLETIN
OF THE
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**
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A nonprofit institution incorporated Feb. 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the IRIS.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Airline Discounts	Jeane Stayer	6
Omaha Registration Information	Kay Nelson	7
Omaha—A Rare Treat	Gene Gaddie	10
Meeting a Friend in Florence	James Rasmussen	12
Thoughts, Recollections, and Comments	Joe Gatty	15
A Star is Born	Anne S. Lowe	19
Siberian Progress	D. Steve Varner	20
Good Impressions	Clarence Mahan	22
Two Regions Get Together	Bill Rinehart	24
Irises in the Soviet Union	Joe Ghio	25
Exhibitions Committee Report	Emma Hobbs	26
1989 Exhibition Certificates		34
Beautiful Japanese Irises	Rosalie Yerkes Figge	36
Irises Winning High Commendation in 1989		37
Japanese Iris Awards/Payne Award		38
The Pick of the Littles	Paul Black	39
Japanese Irises—Recommendations for the Garden	Diana Nicholls	40
Japanese Irises 1989	Shirley Paquet	41
Royal Horticultural Society Awards/Wisley		49
1990 Symposium	Ken and Agnes Waite	50
Making Wise Selections	Margie Robinson	54
Report from the Tall Bearded Robin Chairman	Libby A. Cross	56
Perspectives of a New Member	Gwen Baggett	57
Collecting Wild Iris in China	Dr. James W. Waddick	63
Dr. Waddick in China	George Waters	79
A Myth: Vitamin B-1 as a Transplant Aid	Adele S. Lawyer	84
Rare Irises Among Those on Threatened List	Martha Makholm	85
1990 Membership Contest	Lucy Fry	87
First SPCNI Spring Expedition	Adele S. Lawyer	89
An Issue: Why The Rush?	Clarence Mahan	94

Regular Features

President's Desk	4	In Memoriam	83
Membership Rates	5	Minutes, Board of Directors	96
AIS Judges, 1990	43	Statement of Ownership	101
Youth Views	55	AIS Financial Statement	102
Contributions to AISF	81	Commercial Directory	109
Contribution Information	82	Advertising Rates	119

Advertisers This Issue:

Aitken's Salmon Creek	62	Keppel	61, 103
Arilian Acres (Shockey)	Cover 2, 104	Klehm	Cover 3
Bay View (Ghio)	Cover 4	John R. Knaus	107
British Iris Society	108	1990 Convention	9
Celestial Gardens (Stadler)	59	Region 7	108
Cottage Gardens (McWhirter)	60	Seaways & Pope Perennials	105
Hillcrest (Nichols)	106, 107	Schultz Company	83
		Sooner State	107

Photo Credits: James Rasmussen 14; Dr. James Waddick 71, 72, 75; George Shoop 80; Adele Lawyer 90, 92, 94.

FRONT COVER: Ted Kipping photographed Iris bracteata growing amid wild phlox in the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon. Color separations are courtesy of the American Iris Society calendar for 1990.



From the Desk of the President

Kenneth Waite

As the snowflakes drift around some of us, others are basking in the sunny southland. In either case, irises are resting for their glories of the bloom season to be as the spring seed and iris catalogs start to arrive. January brought not only a new decade but a change of administration in AIS. I have served under Presidents Cosgrove, Wolford, Stahly, Mullin, and Rasmussen. Knowing the success each attained, I am awed by the momentous responsibilities. I will try to carry forward on the bases established by my predecessors. However, nothing will be accomplished without the support of Officers, Directors, Committees, RVPs, and most importantly you, the members.

Our Membership Secretary has been kept very busy as the membership continues to grow. Memberships have now neared the 9,000 mark. This steady increase is good news, but we must make every effort to keep old and new members by making them welcome at regional and local club functions. January is an excellent time to start planning for spring iris activities. Support your region and local club activities when, and as often, as you can. It is very important to the continuing success of our Society and the advancement of our favorite flower.

Several changes have been made in committee appointments. Please check the committee listings in this Bulletin. I especially direct your attention to the newly appointed Membership Secretary, Exhibition, and Awards Chairmen. These persons are directly involved with the general membership. A few other committees also have new Chairpersons and some retained previous appointments. I am confident all committees are in most capable hands.

It is not too early to start thinking of the upcoming convention. The committees have been, and are striving to make this a most memorable occasion. The '89 preview video of the event indicates it will fulfill their aspirations. It has been forty years since the last conclave in region twenty-one. Only a few will recall the glory of that meeting in Sioux City, Iowa, so we do look forward to 'PRAIRIE IN BLOOM'. Even fewer will remember the earlier convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. To most of us it will be a first time as an Iris Guest in the "Cornhusker State," land of the Sass Gardens. I hope to see you there.

I will miss the excitement of awards work, but look forward to this new challenge as your President and will do my best to keep The American Iris Society moving forward. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome by letter or in person at any of our board meetings.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The new membership secretary for the AIS is

Marilyn Harlow
P.O. Box 8455
San Jose, CA 95155

All membership checks should be sent to this address. See rates in this issue.

AIS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Annual	\$ 9.50	Sustaining	\$20.00
Triennial	23.75	Research	47.50
Family	11.50	Life	190.00
Family Triennial	28.50	Family Life	237.50
Youth Member, with others of family as members	2.00		
Youth Members, with no others of family as members	3.25		

SECTION MEMBERSHIP RATES	single annual	single triennial	family annual	family triennial
Median Iris Society	5.50	15.00	8.00	22.50
Society for Siberian Irises	2.50	6.50	3.00	7.50
Spuria Iris Society	3.00	7.00	3.50	8.00
Society for Japanese Irises	3.50	9.00	4.00	10.50
Reblooming Iris Society	3.00	7.50	4.00	10.00
Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
Species Iris Group of North America	3.50	9.00	4.50	10.50
Louisiana Iris Society of America	3.00	8.00	4.50	12.00
Dwarf Iris Society	3.00	8.00	4.50	12.00

Membership in AIS sections is open to all AIS members. Payment may be made directly to the Section, or may be made payable to the American Iris Society and sent to AIS Membership Secretary, Marilyn Harlow, P.O. Box 8455, San Jose, CA 95155



Omaha Skyline

American Airlines Discounts

Jeane Stayer

The board has approved a new agreement with American Airlines to handle our air transportation needs for conventions and fall board meetings through our spring meeting of 1995. We are pleased that the new agreement will extend to our Canadian members.

American Airlines agrees to make available Meeting Saver fares equal to a 40% discount off the full day coach fare in effect the date tickets are purchased. This fare must be purchased seven (7) days in advance based on "M" class availability and is valid to our meeting sites from various points in the contiguous 48 states. Passengers originating in Canada will be offered 35% off the full fare coach with a seven (7) day advance purchase: specific restrictions apply. Should a lower American promotional fare be available, the Meeting Services Desk will confirm the lowest American fare, providing normal qualifications are met. Also American Airlines offers 5% off the lowest applicable round trip fare. All fare rules and restrictions apply. This also applies to round trip First Class travel.

The Special Discount is available only by contacting the American Airlines Meeting Services Desk at the Toll Free Number 1-800-433-1790 and referring to STAR FILE NUMBER O1Z5RJ. For our Omaha, Nebraska, convention the special fare is available for travel from May 18 through May 26, 1990.

This agreement was negotiated with American Airlines by the board for the convenience of those wanting to attend the convention. It is our hope that the savings provided by this agreement will be an incentive to fly American.

O M A H A

PRAIRIE IN BLOOM

**1990 American Iris Society National Convention
May 20 - 24, 1990**

Convention Headquarters
Holiday Inn
3321 South 72 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68124
Local (402) 393-3950
Toll Free (800) 465-4329

Rates: Room with one double bed \$54, 2 double beds \$64, kingsize bed \$64, poolside room with 2 double beds \$74. Free parking and free airport van service.

Please make reservations directly with the Holiday Inn. State that you are with The American Iris Society Convention. All rooms blocked for the convention which are not reserved by April 3, 1990, will be released to the general public on that date. The hotel check-in time is 6:00 P.M. Check-out time is 11:00 A.M.

Registration Fees: Postmarked by April 1	\$121.00
Postmarked by May 1	\$133.00
Postmarked after May 1	\$144.00

Make checks payable to "1990 AIS Convention".

Mail Registrations to: Kay Nelson, P.O. Box 37163,
Omaha, NE 68137

When making your convention reservation, please indicate if 1) you are a hybridizer who has registered and introduced irises, 2) you are attending a national convention for the first time, and 3) you would have to have information concerning camping facilities in the area.

Partial registration rates will be given upon inquiry to the Convention Registrar and will be honored upon advance registration only. If it is necessary to cancel a registration, full refund will be made if notice is postmarked no later than April 20. A 50% refund will be made if notice is postmarked no later than May 10.

As a courtesy to the garden owners, we ask that you consider the private convention gardens closed for viewing from May 12 through 24.

CONVENTION TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 20—Registration opens at 12 noon and closes at 6:00 P.M. Meetings are scheduled for the AIS Board of Directors (1:00-3:00 P.M.), Sectional Representatives, RVPs and AIS Judges Training Chairperson, and Board meetings for the Dwarf, Median, Siberian, Reblooming and the Japanese Iris Societies as well as HIPS. For early arrivals, there is an optional tour of the Henry Doorly Zoo from 1:00 to 3:30 P.M. See information following the convention schedule.

Monday, May 21—Registration open from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Meetings scheduled are the AIS Board of Directors (9:00-4:00 P.M.) and the following societies: Louisiana, Reblooming, Pacific Coast, Spuria, Median, Siberian, HIPS, Aril, Dwarf, SIGNA, Japanese Iris. Also, Robins and Past and Future Convention Chairpersons.

The convention will open with a no host social hour and a youth reception at 6:00 P.M. The Welcome Banquet will be held at 7:00 P.M. in the Holiday Hall.

Tuesday, May 22—A continental breakfast will be served at 6:00 in the Documents Room. The registration desk will be open from 6:30 to 7:15 A.M. Bus departures will begin around 7:00 A.M. for the Lincoln or Omaha convention gardens.

Dinner on your own. Evening functions — three concurrent Judges' Training Sessions: 1) Judging Tall Bearded Irises in the Garden, 2) Judging Beardless Irises, and 3) Awards and Balloting.

Wednesday, May 23—Continental breakfast will be served at 6:00 A.M. in the Documents Room. Bus departures will begin around 6:30 A.M. for the Wayne and Ponca Gardens. Lunch will be served at Wayne College.

Dinner on your own. For those interested, there will be a non-credit program on Artistic Arrangements beginning at 7:00 P.M. AIS Foundation meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, May 24—Continental breakfast will be served at 6:00 A.M. in the Documents Room. Bus departures will begin around 6:30 A.M. for the Lincoln or Omaha convention gardens.

Deadline for submission of President's Cup and Cook Cup ballots is 5:00 p.m.

No host Social Hour and Youth Hour at 6:30 P.M., and the Awards Banquet in Holiday Hall at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, May 25—Hotel check-out time is 11:00 A.M.

HENRY DOORLY ZOO TOUR

Sunday afternoon at 1:00 P.M., join us as we visit Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. The Cat Complex boasts an impressive collection of lions, tigers, leopards and jaguars. It is the largest in the nation. Board the 5/8 scale live steam train for a 2-1/2 mile panoramic sweep of this 110-acre zoo or catch a ride on the zoo tram. On the African Veldt, you'll see giraffes, ostriches and crowned cranes. Roam through the largest aviary in any zoo in the world and see a variety of unusual, exotic birds.

Tour cost: \$18.00/person which includes transportation and admission.

1990 AIS CONVENTIONEERS

On Monday, May 21, the Greater Omaha Iris Society will sponsor a flower show to be held in the 1990 convention headquarters, Holiday Inn Central. Competition is open to the public. Entries will be accepted between 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. Visiting hours will be between 3:00 and 7:00 P.M.

Entries in the Design Division are by preregistration only. Write to Marilyn Harrington, 8819 Lake Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68134-6123 for a copy of the show schedule and registration forms.

NATIVE AMERICAN IRIS

A full color flyer devoted to domestic iris species is the latest special publication of the American Iris Society. Based on research by Elaine Hulbert and editing by Jean Witt, the brochure pictures nine iris chosen to represent the nearly-thirty iris species native to North America. It is enclosed with this Bulletin.

The first use of the brochure will be in pursuit of, and in support of, a U.S. postage stamp to honor our society's 75th jubilee. James Rasmussen, past-president of AIS, will coordinate the postage stamp drive.

Olive Rice Waters, Public Relations.

OMAHA—A Rare Treat

Gene Gaddie (Nebraska)

Irisarians who want to come to Omaha a day or two early for the convention and/or stay a day or two later have many unique opportunities to do and see things other than visit with hybridizers of their favorite irises, learn more from the pros about iris judging, visit the iris show, and tour the ten gardens showing all kinds of new and old landscaping ideas with 8,817 clumps of irises plus fields of seedlings.

The host steering committee had a dickens of a time deciding which of the Omaha attractions to offer for one organized side-tour. The committee finally settled on Henry Doorly Zoo because those who want a closer look at Boys Town and the Strategic Air Command Museum will easily be able to find their way back to them after having been there to tour the iris display gardens.

The zoo includes the largest aviary of any zoo in the world, the largest "cat house" in the nation and a new Bear Canyon, giving a close-up of polar bears swimming underwater, grizzlies sunning and sun bears climbing. Walk, ride the tram or board the $\frac{5}{8}$ scale steam train for a 2½-mile panoramic sweep of this 110-acre zoo.

At Boys Town, one can arrange to join guided tours or go in private cars and take tape recorders and guide-tapes checked out at the visitor's center. The 1310 acre campus and arboretum (designated Tree City USA) is a complete community, including 70 private homes for 500 troubled boys and girls. This program has been rapidly expanding in recent years to include other cities across the nation, serving 12,000 youths. Be sure to tour the Hall of History, documenting the dramatic story of Boys Town since it was founded in 1717, including Spencer Tracy's academy award, the huge statue of founder Father Flannagan surrounded by boys; and the more famous "brothers bronze"—"He ain't heavy, father. He's m'brother." Stamp and coin collectors will want to stop at the Philamatic Center.

Boys Town horticulture students maintain 1,500 square feet of flower beds, including an All-American Rose Test Garden with 500 bushes and a new Bible Garden begun last June. The latter is on a sloping hillside between two beautiful, huge gothic chapels—the Catholic Dowd Memorial Chapel and the new All Faiths Chapel, which is one of only three gothic-design churches under construction in the United States. Most of the planting was done last fall along $\frac{1}{5}$ of a mile of formal walkways with plants to be labeled with their common names, botanical names, and where they are located in the Bible. Many more plants will be added by the time irisarians arrive.

In Bellevue, between the Sass Memorial Iris Display Garden and Offutt Air Base, the SAC Museum chronicles the U.S. Air Force history in a 22,000-foot facility using artifacts, two theaters, rare films and a simulated "red alert." Outside, 30 aircraft, including a cut-away of a World War II bomber and a missile display, are toured annually by an estimated 100,000 people.

After visiting Omaha last year, writer Eugene Curtin wrote for the New York Tribune: With a highway system that facilitates easy access to the city and a variety of restaurants to satisfy even the most eclectic yuppie gourmet, Omaha is one of the nation's best kept secrets.

Irisarians would be remiss not to schedule as many dining-out opportunities as possible while in Omaha. Famous "Nebraska beef" makes for ferocious competition in steaks and prime rib. Omaha World-Herald reviewer Peter Citron says, "I could mention every place in Omaha that serves beef, which is about 200, and not steer you too far wrong." There are many famous Italian restaurants; a number of excellent Asian cuisine and several little specialty places, the one-of-a-kind known mostly to natives.

Citron reports that expensive for Omaha is about 20 bucks a person less than business travelers are used to putting on expense accounts.

The most visited Omaha attraction is the Old Market. Stroll the brick streets, have your portrait sketched by street corner artists for a fee, and enjoy the rustic atmosphere and architecture of 1880's buildings restored to a National Historic Place. They contain 70 flower-bedecked businesses, including art galleries, theaters, boutiques, pubs, sidewalk cafes and several of Omaha's finest restaurants—also recommended for noon luncheons.

For those up to more strolling, several of Omaha's finest attractions are within walking distance of the Old Market. The average high temperature in Omaha the week of the convention is in the 70's and the lows in the 50's. A block to the north is Central Park Mall. A national model for urban development, the mall features waterfalls, gardens, sculpture, pedestrian walkways, an amphitheater and summer concerts.

History, railroad and coin buffs have two excellent museums nearby. Two blocks from the mall, irisarians can take a self-guided tour through 100 years of railroad history at the Union Pacific Museum. Use video stations and see historic artifacts, including many from passenger and dining cars, from the golden spike ceremony at the completion of the transcontinental railroad and a lot of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia.

About five blocks from the Old Market, the huge Art-Deco Union Railway Station has been restored to house three separate exhibits in six galleries documenting Omaha's history plus one of the country's finest archival photography exhibits. Finally, completed 98 years after it was bequeathed to the city by realtor Byron Reed, a display of Reed's collection of rare coins, medals, documents and signatures can be seen. Part of the 15-million-dollar, 14,000 piece collection are beautifully displayed on a rotation basis as a historical chronicle from ancient Rome through the U.S. Civil War.

Before venturing to the 30-acre Riverfront Park, check to see if the Heartland of American Foundation meets its presently scheduled debut, which should be shortly before the iris convention. Expected to become Omaha's number one landmark, it will be the highest fountain in the world. Located in the center of a 15-acre lake, it will have jets of varying heights, up to 250-feet, and will feature various 45-minute colored light shows at night.

Only the most athletic joggers should attempt the uphill climb to Joslyn Art Museum, one of the nation's finest examples of Art Deco architecture, done in pink Georgia marble. Be sure to enter via the classically-columned East Portico. This museum contains works by such European masters as El Greco, Reubens, Rembrandt, Breton, Monet, Renoir, and Degas; such American masters as Grant Wood, Thomas Hart Benton, Jackson Pollock, George Segal, Kenneth Nolan and Pat Steir. It's prized Western American Collection includes important works by Alfred Jacob Miller, George Catlin, and Frederick Remington and, Joslyn's crown jewel, the water colors and drawings of Swiss artist Karl Bodmer, done while he was accompanying German Prince Maximilian on an early 1830's expedition through the Upper Midwest.

Racing buffs will not want to race home after the Thursday night awards banquet. The horses will be running Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Memorial Day (and the weekend before the convention) at Ak-Sar-Ben, one of the nation's top ten thoroughbred facilities.

Flying irisarians will be greeted and bid farewell at Epply Airport by "Dance of the Cranes," John Raimondi's new sculpture—the tallest bronze in the country.

Other interesting things to do and see in Omaha and the immediate area: President Gerald Ford's birthsite, Mormon Pioneer Cemetery, General Dodge House, General Crook House, Mutual of Omaha Dome, Omaha Livestock Market, Peony Park, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Fontenelle Forest, Neal Woods Nature Center, Schramm State Park, Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, 16 performing arts/community/dinner theaters, Missouri riverboat cruises and shopping centers. For more information contact the Omaha Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 1819 Farnam Street, Suite 1200, Omaha, NE 68183. Out of State Toll Free 1-800-332-1819.

Oh, yes, about those irises—more nice rains in September sent them into winter looking great!

MEETING A FRIEND IN FLORENCE

James Rasmussen (Kansas)

Many among us iris lovers have in our libraries G. I. Rodionenko's *The Genus Iris L.*, published by the British Iris Society in 1984. It is a valued and treasured work to all of us.

This year, while judging the Concorso Internazionale dell'Iris, the International Iris Exhibition in Florence, Italy, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Rodionenko—an experience which I, personally, will always value and treasure.

Just a few days before leaving for Florence, I heard that Dr. Rodionenko would be there as one of the judges. I tried to imagine what this man—one of the world's finest botanists and revered for his work with the genus iris—would be like. Would he be the aloof super-intellect? Would he be the "typical" research scientist with his head in the clouds but his feet nowhere near iris-

growing soil? Would he look, as he well and deservedly may, upon me as a mere hobby gardener and treat me accordingly???

When Dr. George Rodionenko walked into the meeting room of the Hotel Rigatti, I met a man who fit none of these stereotypes. I met a friend. All of the judges called him "George", and George's unassuming friendliness and natural graciousness overcame all barriers of language and of different national origins within our group.

Dr. Rodionenko, who has been in correspondence with a number of AIS members, is now retired as Director of the Komarov Botanical Institute of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences in Leningrad, but he seems to be as busy as ever working in the Botanical Gardens. He is a man of immense knowledge, not only of irises, but of all plants. On our travels through the country around Florence, he was our eyes and our minds: He readily identified any plant along the roadside or in the gardens and supplied a full description of its background as we rolled along . . .

Only one person in the group knew enough Russian to pitch in when needed. Dr. Rodionenko made himself understood well enough in English. On a visit to the Degl'Innocenti Iris Gardens in Florence he gave us an hour's slide show and lecture on collected irises from across the U.S.S.R. All those of you interested in Species and Aril irises would have thoroughly enjoyed this talk. The slides were unique and beautiful. Dr. Rodionenko had with him about a dozen large botanical drawings of iris species. I was able to photograph each of them for my own collection even though the colors are not quite as precise as those of the original drawings.

George's is one of the original "INQUIRING MINDS THAT WANT TO KNOW." He was interested in everything and filled his small notebook with tidbits of Florentine life—from the price of the antipasto served to the types of shoes shown in the windows. Botany, however, was foremost in his thoughts. Once, on a visit to the Villa Landi in Tuscany, Dr. George Rodionenko was nowhere to be found. We looked and we called—and we finally saw him wandering along the road, having collected specimens of wild gladioli growing in a nearby field complete with a soil sample so that the plants could be given the proper environment in his garden.

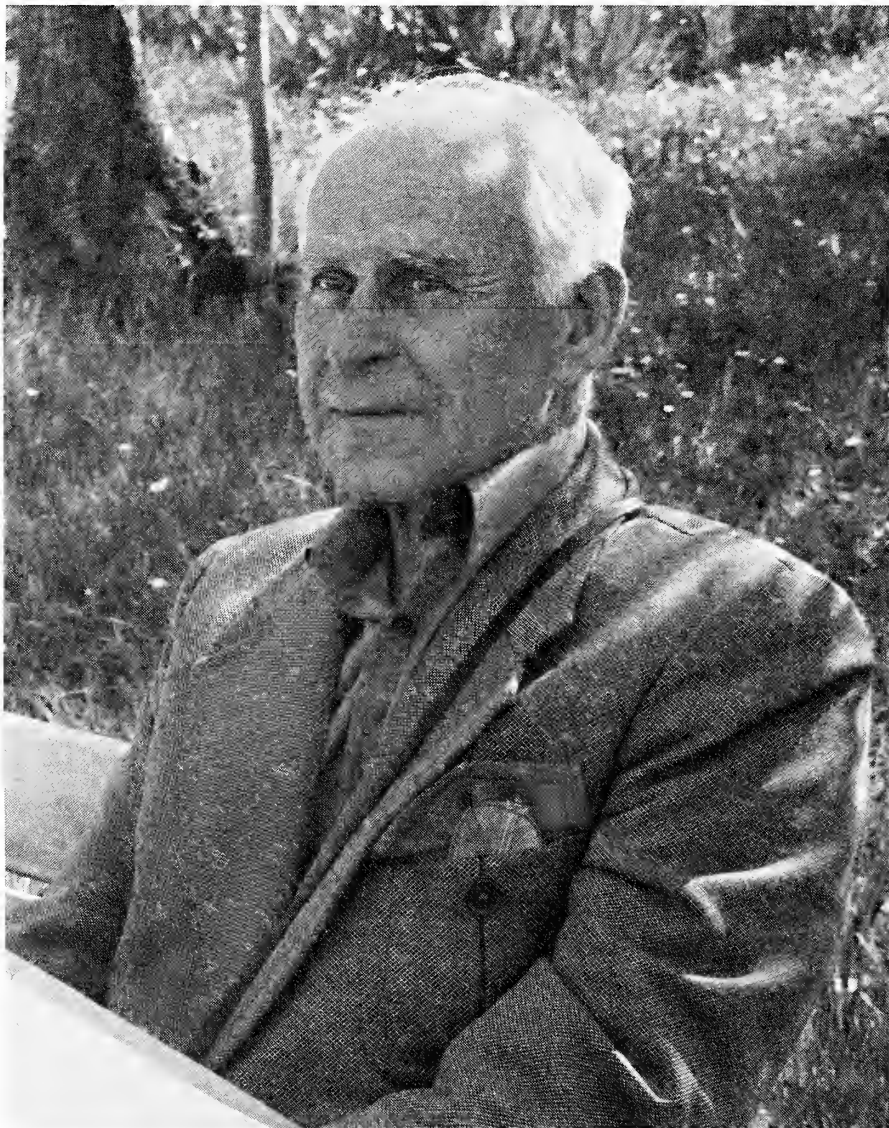
Dr. Rodionenko's 1981 book, *The Iris* (in Russian and English, published by Kolov Publishers in Moscow) which I am most proud to have, pictures many of the older American-bred cultivars. The color plates are excellent. Many of these irises have been, at one point or another, an integral part of many of our gardens. Dr. Rodionenko has received some of our newer tall bearded irises in recent years but was unable to keep them alive due to harsh winters and the very high water table in their location in Leningrad.

George, the private man, was fun to be around. He was one of the people in the group who had done his homework. He knew so much of the history of Florence, such as that the Borghese Palace (where the judges enjoyed a most memorable dinner meeting with the Rotary International Club of Florence) once was owned and remodeled by Napoleon's sister. He was also most anxious to be able to visit the Uffizi Gallery, a hope which finally materialized thanks to one of our most capable and gracious Italian hostesses who was

able to eliminate, for George, having to stand in line for tickets together with the daily contingent of a thousand school children making this a stop on their field trips!

Although food in Florence was on a scale of fabulous-to-super, two of the culinary highlights for George were honey and strawberries, two commodities obviously not readily available this time of year (early May) in far-North Leningrad. All of the "Giudici," the judges, had breakfast together at the Pensione each morning. It was fun for all to save their honey containers for George who enjoyed them to the very last drop. He soon became known for his love of strawberries. It delighted him immensely when one of our many wonderful and attentive hostesses, Signora Landi, presented him with a big basket of these red, ripe, fresh delicacies as soon as she found out that he would enjoy them!

The week of association with this great man gave me a wonderful feeling of brotherhood. George also enjoyed these days of "iris association." How wonderful that such a meeting of people devoted to our favorite flower can take place. I only hope that exchanges on the personal and the scientific level can happen in the future for everyone's gain.



Dr. George Rodionenko

Thoughts, Recollections, and Comments

Joe Gatty

*Pretty irises all in a row
Some will stay, some will go.*

The avid iris grower quickly learns that iris varieties and iris gardens have one thing in common: both are ever-changing. It is this ever-changing process that captivates and motivates the grower, hybridizer, and judge. All three wish for tomorrow today, yet each of these individuals knows that, in order to bring about the best of tomorrow, they must have a thorough knowledge of the irises past and present. And know that iris growing, hybridizing, and judging, if it is to be properly done, is an ever-continuing process of learning.

What will be the make-up of the good irises of tomorrow? The good of the past has already made way for the best of the present, and let's accept this fact: the best of tomorrow is already under number in hybridizers' selection rows. It has been and always will be thus.

The prime requisites of a good iris variety will continue to be vigor, healthy foliage, well budded and branched stalks, and growth habits not prone to winter damage. Fortunately, the floral style of tomorrow is already with us. The long-of-fall, narrow-of-petal style of yesterday has already given way to the more pleasing—and certainly no less graceful—wide, round-of-petal, ruffled and laced one. It is this floral style which today enhances the best of the modern white, blue, violet, pink, and soft yellow tall bearded, and which will in time be very much a part of the lesser-ruffled intense yellows, blends, bicolors, reds, browns, purples, and blacks. The finished product of the future, if it is to be judged truly worthy, will consist of all the above-mentioned attributes plus one heretofore not mentioned, known as distinction, individuality, or personality.

For me, one of the joys of an often too busy iris season is that moment when you quietly walk alone down the iris rows of named varieties. It's a time of appreciation of those varieties that have it all together, of finding a step in the right direction that might be of value to one's own iris line. It's magic time for an iris-holic, so you make the most of it.

The following are some of the iris varieties which this past season received a pat on the standards, for one reason or another. . . .

ALLSTAR (R. Dunn '86) The iris introductions of Mary and Bob Dunn can be relied upon to possess style of flower, three way branching, and buds to spare. ALLSTAR has all of these qualities and is a floral improvement on both of its parents, FIVE STAR ADMIRAL and BLUE MAXX. It's big, wide, and ruffled, and an intense medium blue.

ARMADA (Keppel '88) I don't do tall bearded plicatas, but I annually browse among a sea of such seedlings wondering what next can possibly

appear in the way of color and pattern variations. ARMADA, with its pale blue standards and white falls edged intense violet blue, is a color contrast knock-out enhanced by wide, ruffled form.

BOHEMIAN (Schreiner '88) This one didn't appear in the introducer's 1989 catalog, but I suspect it will again, once stock permits. It's all quality, a bright blend of bronzy-tan standards and butterscotch infused rosy-lavender falls. Good bud count and branching.

BURGEMEISTER (Schreiner '87) It is currently the day and age of the bicolor, and for width of form, size of flower, only one now surpasses BURGEMEISTER, and that is SWEET MUSETTE. The color effect is one of softness: buff-cream standards suffused lavender, over muted rose-violet falls. Quite late of season.

CALIPH (Ghio '87) Irises of deep brown color have been rare in recent years. CALIPH, for that reason, is a worthwhile addition. The color is right, the form is right—and this is also true of the variety VERISMO (Hager '87). Yet my notes read "shy buds" for one and "height varies" for the other. Color- and form-wise neither can be ignored by the grower or hybridizer. (Be warned: VERISMO can be a very reluctant parent.)

CHICO MAID (Luihn '85) Here is a pale blue with a blue beard that always had it all together. I've yet to know an iris season when it didn't perform beautifully. It's that rare combination of beauty coupled with good garden qualities.

CODICIL (Innerst '85) The beard, the beard! And that intense near-black beard on mid-blue, plus its ability to grow and bloom well, is its appeal. It is definitely a "people's iris"—high praise, indeed—and will hold onto its place in the sun until a more stylish version of itself appears on the scene.

CRYSTALYN (R. Dunn '86) The standard by which other blue-whites today must be judged. There is a finish and style to CRYSTALYN that is eye-appealing. Its modern look is lavishly displayed since it is well budded and branched.

DIVINE (M. Dunn '88) A bicolor with a bit of a difference. Its ruffled palest orchid standards sit atop ruffled medium violet falls highlighted by a large white area in and around the beards.

DUSKY CHALLENGER (Schreiner '86) Some iris varieties come onto the scene with "must-have" attached to their name. DUSKY CHALLENGER did. It is tall, well branched and budded. It is big of flower and intensely hued. It performs well and shows well. And, for the moment, that's all it has to be or do. It is TITAN'S GLORY in a deeper color.

EDITH WOLFORD (Hager '86) When you have it, you have it—and even those not particularly charmed by the color combination of yellow and blue-violet can't deny the individuality of this iris. Its colors are clear and clean in a color class where they're usually not. And its floral style is modern-ruffled.

EVENING GOWN (Ghio '87) A rich, rich bit of color, with black-violet intensity and a satin finish to set it off. It is ruffled, well budded and branched, and vigorous. Tops in its color class, if it performs elsewhere as it does here.

EVER AFTER (Keppel '86) A most appealing fuchsia-rose blend. A just right garden subject where you wish to flaunt color and charm at eye level. Wide and lightly ruffled.

HONKYTONK BLUES (Schreiner '88) Unique of color, very modern of form, and an absolute delight to the eye. Its color application of violet-blue washed and blended on white is not the fingerpaint efforts of a child at play, but the work of an artist in full control of his knife and brush. Wide, semi-flared, and ruffled. It is unique.

HULA DANCER (Shoop '85) The reverse color pattern is not a new one, but until now the contrast between standard and fall, with the exception of the *imbricata* derivatives, has been subtle rather than blatant. HULA DANCER, HULA GIRL, HAWAIIAN QUEEN, ISLAND GIRL—all from George Shoop—have bold contrast of color. Here is a new series of irises that will not only add to the garden, but which will play an important role in the irises of tomorrow.

MAGIC (Hager '87) The blue-bearded pinks introduced to date have all had one fault: the lovely blue beard quickly pales as the flower stretches. The orchid-pink MAGIC, with its striking violet-purple beard, is without this fault. A fine iris, and perhaps the way to that elusive true pink with the color-fast beard.

NEUTRON DANCE (Blyth '87) The boldest of contrast in the yellow amoena class. The standards are white-white, the falls butter yellow with gold beards. Nicely fashioned flowers on a garden-worthy plant.

PEACH BISQUE (Maryott '87) What's not to like? Picture a mass of heavily ruffled creamy peach blossoms atop well branched stalks, think the word "charming," and that sums up this iris. At least that was my reaction to it this past spring.

PENCHANT (Harding '86) Nobility in blue. It takes a really good blue for me to return again and again for another look, but I did just that—and with pollen in hand. A beautifully poised, moderately ruffled, semi-flaring, well budded and branched, positively huge Australian lovely. Don't overlook this one.

RADIANT ENERGY (Maryott '86) A yellow with good depth of color and intense ruffling. Its bud count varies from stalk to stalk—from single budded to double—and its color fastness cannot match that of BOLD GOLD. But then BOLD GOLD could use its ruffling. An enjoyable iris and, for me, one to work with.

SILVERADO (Schreiner '87) This white, tinted palest lavender, is a bit of near-perfection that will long remain a favorite with iris fanciers. To see it is to want it, and only the most picayune would dare to fault it.

SKYBLAZE (Keppel '87) The day and age when a tangerine bearded blue was in reality a tangerine bearded violet-blue is long gone. SKYBLAZE is one of the bluest of blues and its vivid red beard highlights that fact. Its catalog description, "great color and stalks," says it all.

SWEET MUSETTE (Schreiner '86) In the three years this one has bloomed here—and that is the row life for most varieties in the commercial planting here—it has never been anything but impressive. It is stately, large flowered, and its lavender-pink standards over rose-pink falls are pleasing.

THRILLER (Schreiner '88) Its ace-in-the-hole is its color: a rich, seldom seen claret self with darker purple beards. Tall, well branched, with lots of ruffled blossoms of moderate size.

VANITY'S CHILD (Olson '85) It may be Vanity's child, but it definitely has a charming personality of its own. Its lightly ruffled, semi-flared blossoms of baby ribbon pink are displayed on show bench stalks.

WARRIOR KING (Schreiner '85) These days when you come upon a red that has a glossy finish and smoothness of color, you can more or less assume that it is a SPARTAN child. WARRIOR KING is—and is a very good red with a touch of ruffling.

WINEMASTER (Keppel '86) A lightly ruffled wine red with great richness of color. It, too, is a SPARTAN child.

WINTERSCAPE (McWhirter '85) One that is definitely more than just another white. Its wide, heavy-substanced and ruffled white blossoms shaded blue-violet are a delight to see. Its appeal is such that one becomes curious as to its breeding potential. And, it is a good breeder. The purist might find it difficult to overlook its sometimes variable bud count, but those seeking beauty will revel in it.

It is too soon to know the complete value of the following varieties recently added to the garden, but that they are mentioned at all tells you I enjoyed their first showing.

ANY SUNDAE (Durrance '86) This one has been long needed. We've had a plethora of near-tangerine bearded whites in recent years, but very few stylish ruffled and laced whites with vivid red beards. This one is exactly that, and most welcome.

BUBBLE UP (Ghio '89) One's first impression of this iris is not its color, but its abundance of corrugated ruffling coupled with width of petal. Its color, at least to my eye, is that of the palest salmon pink overlaid on white.

DOROTHY PALMER (Stevens '88) A ruffled and laced soft buff self with tangerine beards, a unique pastel. Well branched on a first-year plant.

GUADALAJARA (Ghio '89) The color orange is still anyone's cup-of-tea, but one by one—MALAGUENA, MONTEVIDEO, ESMERALDA—Mr. Ghio has been making it his own. GUADALAJARA is the latest addition in this line and it is most worthy. Tall, wide, semi-flaring deep orange self.

INLAND PRINCESS (Hamner '88) A unique color pattern in heavy lace. Spanish orange standards above white falls edged spanish orange. There's nothing shy about this temptress.

JOLT (Weiler '88) If intensity of color in orange is your thing, then this is for you. It is not, however, large of flower size, but it more than makes up for that in color appeal.

LARRY GAULTER (B. Brown '88) A good addition to an already very crowded color class. A tall, well branched, intensely ruffled deep purple.

SPRING TIDINGS (Shoop '89) Not as yet grown here, but as seen in its home garden it glowed. The bright pink-tinted lavender is a color just right for its ruffled and flaring blossoms. Show branched, well budded—and great appeal.

VERIVOQUE (R. Dunn '89) Voluptuous is the only word to describe this extremely wide and ruffled greenish cream creation. Unique but good form, great size of flower, and a beautiful pastel.

And finally, two to grow on . . .

SILVER FOX (V. Wood '90) A Cottage Gardens introduction and most worthwhile one. Wide, full, lightly ruffled white-white with a vivid red beard. Show branching.

T75-B (Schreiner '90) For years we've enjoyed visiting the Schreiner fields and seeing the advancements they've achieved in black irises. Picture a black with heavy ruffling, tall stature, and three way branching and you have this one. A truly exciting iris.



A Star Is Born

Anne S. Lowe (Virginia)

A new section has burst upon the AIS galaxy. The Historic Iris Preservation Society (fondly known as HIPS) became a viable organization in Memphis and was presented and accepted for AIS Section Status at the Fall Board Meeting in Wichita. Although this new section was several years in the making, many people have worked very hard during the past year to bring HIPS to this point, and the show of interest and enthusiasm for this new organization has been tremendous. In the words of Section Liaison Chairman Lineberger, "HIPS is one of the two fastest growing sections in AIS."

HIPS provides the common thread which links all sections together. While preservation and conservation are desirable at all levels of horticulture, they are especially needed in the iris world where 500-800 new cultivars come onto the market each year and an equal number slide into the historic/antique category. The Society has established liaison with all the other sections in an effort to assist with the coordination and development of iris conservation programs. Mechanisms for dealing with data collection are in the making; archival and slide programs are in place; and plans are being made to publish Volume I of *The Iris Chronicles* within the next two years.

Our Membership Chairman is ready to accept your dues and welcome you to HIPS. Your new membership/renewal will be promptly acknowledged and processed, and, if you are a new member, you will receive the current copy of *ROOTS*, the Society newsletter which is published twice annually.

Send all membership inquiries to: Verona Wiekhorst, Membership/

Treasurer

4855 Santiago Way

Colorado Springs, CO 80917

We feel that we have much to offer the irisarians of the United States, Canada, and beyond. We encourage you to join our ranks!

Siberian Progress

D. Steve Varner (Illinois)

Over thirty-six years ago, I made my first Siberian iris cross and numbered my first seedling two years later. I had only one Siberian, Caesar's Brother, so I selfed it and produced Tealwood which still is one of the darkest velvety purples. It has received the Morgan Award. The Society for Siberian Irises has had a policy that any form of bloom is acceptable as long as it is harmoniously beautiful. There is no one form or shape that is "the model."

Since I was breeding bearded irises and my soil pH was 6.5 to 7.0, I made my Siberians grow in it. They had to conform to my growing conditions, and I selected those that performed best here. I like Siberians with grace and charm, durability, stalks with wide multiple branching, lots of buds that have good time lag so no blooms interfere with each other, all in harmonious proportion. Foliage must remain erect throughout the growing season. Landscapers often use Siberians in individual clumps at focal points for an oriental effect. A Siberian clump is most attractive to me when all blooms may be seen, with shorter stalks on the outside, intermediate stalks just above and inside the short stalks, and the center stalks tall enough to display their blooms above the foliage.

I have kept records of parentages from the beginning, and it is rewarding to me, personally, to be able to go back to my records and understand how certain improvements have come about. My most recent registration, Illini Rose, is unique in form and color. Extremely wide falls flare to form a round platform for the shorter than normal styles and standards which are clustered together. The grape rose color of about half of the seedlings in the seed cross of King of Kings X Limeheart—two whites—was not expected. The other half of its siblings were white as I had hoped. Data checks showed the other than white colors in King of Kings' background. The other parent's parents are of unknown background.

Record keeping takes much time and effort, but Siberian improvements reward the breeder who uses known records. I am also breeding several other hardy perennials, with main programs in day lilies, peonies, lilacs, and other irises.

Siberians are fibrous rooted and need water and protection from the iris borer to perform at their best. I believe the ecologically safest control for iris borers is *Bacillus thuringiensis*, sold under various trade names as Dipel, Thuricide, and Thurigen. It kills only the larvae of Lepidoptera—moths and butterflies—but must be ingested. Eaten by borer larvae, it seems to paralyze their digestive system and causes death by starvation. It will not kill flies, pets, humans or bees—not even adult moths. It must be sprayed on, or otherwise applied to the plant material the borer is eating.

We have many comparatively new breeders and that is great for the future of Siberians. More and more gardeners are learning how easy Siberians are to grow and enjoy if they are kept moist until they are established, and how easy

they are to transport for exhibition. For taking Siberian stalks to shows, I recommend cutting the stalk before the blooms are open and bringing them indoors out of dusty conditions. Plastic cartons to hold eight 16 ounce bottles of soft drinks carry four or more bottles filled with water and a Siberian stalk to the show. Such cartons of flowers in water can be held a few days in 45 to 50 degrees F. temperature if necessary.

Siberian clumps are best divided and moved in fall or early spring. I recommend digging and placing the portion to be transplanted directly into a container holding sufficient water to cover the roots. Carry this container to the new site in your garden, keeping the plant's roots moist at all times as you divide and plant. Be sure to fill the hole half full of water, plant and pack the dirt around the roots to eliminate air pockets. Water again and mulch. Until the plant is established, continue to water to keep the soil moist. Siberian clumps can remain in place for years without moving or dividing with little maintenance.

The mechanics of Siberian breeding and raising seedlings to a transplantable size are physically harder for me than with most of the other hardy perennials I breed. Pollen must be collected and dried to prevent insects from eating it. Some stamens must be excised to get their pollen, and to insure "true" crosses, blooms nearly ready to open must be opened and pollen applied. I use my long thumb nail—specially grown for breeding season—as a pallet to insert pollen between the style and the stigmatic lip. Then I press the lip tightly against the pollen and style. I take a lot of kidding, but this is my best technique!

Much interest in breeding "dwarf" or little Siberians, comparable to Border Bearded irises, is increasing. They should be in proportion in height and in flower size. All other qualities of good Siberians are necessary. We do not want a normal sized flower on a plant that is just "short." My Precious Doll, '88, is my first introduction of this type, and I think it is quite good. The plants are small but vigorous, with a wide branch and terminal, with time lag in blooming so flowers are individually seen. This year I observed it blooming on my small amount of lined out stock from May 12 through July 13, with sparser bloom in the later weeks. I will be watching to see if this performance continues next year. The four two inch diameter flowers per stalk, in nearly flat form, wide and round, have deep lavender standards, lilac falls with cream white signal areas. Ice styles have aqua mid ribs. I am increasing stock on another of this class, #3189, Rare Jewel X Kismet, 20 inches high, two branches and terminal, jaunty, normal form, deep red grape color with white signal. Data book says "takes the rain."

In crossing "pinks" with purples, one seedling line is throwing new blends of pink and purple with green "pairs of eyes" on the shaft of the fall. The characteristic varies from "dreaming" to quite green and is intriguing to me.

My work with tetraploid near pink amoenas continues, and Illini Dame, '88, has solid colored falls, not edged in lighter pink as is its sibling, Dance Ballerina Dance. It gave the best performance this year of any of the Tets I grow. It bloomed early and long on sturdy stalks with two branches and

terminal and is quite vigorous. Some years ago a mutation of V477, a Teal-wood X self deep purple, appeared in the center of the clump as one stalk with red flowers, surrounded by stalks with flowers of varying amounts of red and purple, all inside a twelve inch wide circle of V477 purple. That fall I carefully separated the mutant and partial mutant areas and increased the stock. The partial mutant was not stable and reverted to the original V477 purple. V477M did stay red and is now registered as Illini Ruby. It is the parent of Illini Glory '89, the deepest red diploid I have seen.

King of Kings continues as my best parent for whites but also gives fine Siberians in other colors. The green veins in whites seem to make them whiter to me. King of Kings also blooms long and late and is used with Invader, Dixon and Colorado Colonel for new Siberians that extend the bloom season. Some of my seedlings start bloom before the tall bearded irises, but most Siberians are slightly later than tall bearded peak season. Dappled color patterns like Ann Dasch, Precious Illini '88, and Illini Purple Pepper, '89, fascinate me, but I have never tried to get the dappled effect in reds. MAYBE next year! It is the thrills of seeing first blooms on seedlings of new forms, or of color breaks, or just improvements on old favorites that keep this old hybridizer, with his pains and weariness, stubbornly "hanging in there." You too, can have fun. Try it!

Good Impressions

Clarence Mahan (Virginia)

To grow irises, visit as many gardens as possible, exhibit, judge shows when asked—these are some of the duties of a judge that are a joy to perform. In performing these duties this past year I saw a number of newer varieties that made good impressions.

Four of the best impressions were made in the border bearded class. ALLENDALE (Sparling, 89) fills the need for an outstanding white BB with good substance and texture. BROWNBERRY (Willott, 87), a brownish red-violet plicata on cream ground, called for attention in every garden I saw it—a real "sharpie." ZINC PINK (Ensminger, 87) has two very impressive parents, PINK BUBBLES (Hager, 80) and IRIS BOHNSACK (Ensminger, 81), and forms a nice balanced clump of rosy ruffles and lace. A golden beauty with many merits in the garden, ALISA (Bouldin, 88) has orange beards and lots of sparkle.

Two remarkable standard dwarfs, both rebloomers, are TU TU TURQUOISE (Black 89) and MARITA (Zurbrigg, 89). TU TU TURQUOISE is palest blue with a vivid turquoise spot on the falls. MARITA has an impressive heritage (IMMORTALITY X Welch H503), modern ruffled form, and clear, exquisite coloring of creamy white, with chartreuse veining overlaying the falls. Its beard is chartreuse also. In 1988, MARITA won Best Seedling in the Region 4 fall show at Reidsville, North Carolina.

Of the newer miniature tall bearded irises, NEW WAVE (Hager, 86) all dressed in white ruffles is impressive. Of course, everyone seems to be raving over the marvelous form and delicacy of CRYSTAL RUFFLES (Dunderman,

86). This lovely ruffled white MTB with light lilac haft markings is deserving of all the raves it gets, too. The "pinkest" new MTB is LITTLE ME (Hager, 88). WELCH'S REWARD (W. Welch/E. Hall 88), with yellow standards, red-violet falls edged in yellow, and white hafts with purple veining, sort of reminds me of a modern GRACCHUS (Ware, 1884). It is charming.

I have read many times that "Such and such is the blackest iris I've ever seen." Thus it is with trepidation but sincerity that I report that BEFORE THE STORM (Innerst, 89) is indeed "the blackest tall bearded iris I've ever seen." It also possesses wide, flaring falls, excellent form, and ideal branching. It is something special and sure to gain widespread popularity. Another of Sterling Innerst's irises that continues to impress me is POINT MADE (Innerst, 88) which has bronze gold standards and creamy falls speckled plum. You won't confuse POINT MADE with any other iris!

HEAVEN'S HERALD (Carr, 89) is a very attractive pale blue iris with darker beards. Fluted, it gives the appearance of a blue bearded white iris when performing in the sunshine. Along the same line, but with pinkish lilac flowers with blue beards is FROSTED SAPPHIRE (Niswonger, 88). YESTERDAY (Lineberger, 88) is an aptly named lightly ruffled smoky lavender iris with orange beards tipped yellow . . . its simplicity and delicacy of color epitomize gentility.

At Oklahoma City I fell "head over heels" for Mary Dunn's DIVINE (Dunn, 88), with its ruffles and dramatic contrast provided by pale orchid standards and violet falls with a large white zonal area around the beard. This outstanding hybridizer just keeps producing marvelous irises. CRUZIN (Dunn, 87) is a consistently excellent grower and performer in blue-violet with a white zonal area. ALLSTAR (R. Dunn, 86) should not be overlooked for it is an excellent blue self with yellow beard.

A lovely light blue iris with lavender hints, COMING ATTRACTION (Gaulter, 87) has a white beard and lots of class. Perhaps my favorite blue of the past couple of years, BREAKERS (Schreiners, 86) is fluted, ruffled and very nicely branched.

The three most impressive newer Space Age irises I've seen are LURID (Byers, 87), ART SCHOOL ANGEL (Vizvarie, 89) and INGLESIDE JOY (Stephenson, 88). "Lurid" has several meanings, one of which is "sensational." LURID, a lightly ruffled pristine white iris with tangerine beards and long horns, is sensational; but I believe "elegant" describes it better. ART SCHOOL ANGEL is a large glistening white iris with large flounces . . . its substance and form are hard to match. Fred Stephenson's INGLESIDE JOY has cream standards, falls of creamy tan with infused brownish lavender and deeper tan hafts, orange beards and creamy horns. It has ruffles and distinction!

The two largest flowers on recent introductions surely must belong to the dark violet, lovely DUSKY CHALLENGER (Schreiners, 86) and the medium violet amoena WORLD CLASS (Hager, 88). Both of these varieties produce strong stalks with excellent branching, and the flowers on both are truly gigantic.

For people who want to get show irises with lots of well placed flowers open there are several recent cultivars that should not be overlooked: MOON'S

DELIGHT (Hager, 85), in clean lemon yellow; MISSY YORKTOWN (Innerst, 84), all lovely in bridal white; BE MINE (Byers, 86), a peachy pink with fantastic branching and bud count; SILVERADO (Schreiners, 87), silvery blue and wonderful; and PINK CELEBRITY (Stadler, 89), femininity in pink ruffles.

Two superb darker TBs are GLORY STORY (Weiler, 88), a deeply ruffled dark blue with white beard, and EVENING GOWN (Ghio by Keppel, 87), a deep purple with velvet like appearance. And then, of course, there is EVELYN'S ECHO (Ev. Kegerise, 85) the electric blue-violet that belongs in a class all by itself . . . nothing compares!

Many other tall bearded irises caught my eye this past year: the vivacious variegata, FANFARON (Hager, 88); the sultry variegata, SUPREME SULTAN (Schreiners, 88); the sharp chicory blue with deep red-orange beards, SKY-BLAZE (Keppel, 87); and the highly floriferous mauve-toned light pink, PRESENCE (Gatty, 87), to name just a few.

The Japanese irises that impressed me most this year include HEGIRA (Innerst, 86), a large flowered double white with blue veining and yellow signals. In addition to excellent ruffled form, the flowers have the finest substance of any iris grown today. A clump of HEGIRA in my garden withstood a storm with seventy mile an hour winds and beating rain . . . you wouldn't have known there had been a drop of rain from the straight stalks with perfect flowers when the storm was over. LILAC PEAKS (Vogt, 88) is a beautiful study in pastel contrasts. White with violet veins, the petals provide a lovely foil for the soft lavender ruffled styles. ASHI NO UKIFUNE was released in Japan in 1969 by Yoshio Mitsuda, but it has not been available in this country until recently. Gorgeous! The six main petals are white with maroon violet veins and the styles and extra petaloids are deep maroon violet. Finally, the late Suichi Hirao's SH-30 is the largest single white Japanese iris I have ever seen. Beautiful!

Have I been impressed this year? You bet.

Two Regions Get Together

Bill Rinehart (California)

Members of Regions 14 and 15 are being invited to a joint Region Meeting and Spring Trek on April 20 and 21 in Van Nuys, California. Region 15 has owed Region 14 a Spring Meeting since being lavishly hosted in Fresno in April of 1981. The San Fernando Valley Iris Society, on behalf of Region 15, is belatedly returning the favor.

Eight gardens, all within the 250 square miles of the historic San Fernando Valley will be toured via busses on Saturday the 21st. Gardens are located in areas as diverse as a small ravine wedged into the flanks of the San Gabriels, a past-prime orchard in a rocky section of the Santa Susannas which has provided sanctuary for Tiburcio Vasquez and Charles Manson and family, and a commercial garden occupying three adjoining front yards in a blue-collar neighborhood.

The host society will again invite the public on the garden tours. This practice, which began in 1985, has led to new members, added repeat customers to the clientele at rhizome sales and generally strengthened the local perception of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society and the parent American Iris Society.

Irisarians will also experience as AIS sanctioned show, judges training and a banquet. Ray Schreiner will host "A Peek Into the '90s" through a slide presentation featuring the Schreiners' seedling beds. Guest iris provided by thirty-eight justly celebrated hybridizers will also enhance this preview of the next decade.

Inquiries from AIS members interested in sharing or duplicating this experience in their adjoining regions may call Bill Rinehart (818) 346-1912.

Other regions are urged to consider the possibility of having a joint meeting with a neighbor. It's a fun thing to do.

Irises in the Soviet Union

Joe Ghio (California)

As part of their Sister City Program, the Soviet Union sponsored a conference in Tashkent for all U.S. cities with sister cities in the Soviet Union. Some 170 U.S. delegates met their Russian counterparts in this Central Asian city. The trip took place during the last week of May and the first week of June.

Upon our arrival in Moscow, large plantings of irises were noted in the medians, parks, and around public buildings. They were in full bud, but not yet in bloom.

In Tashkent and Samarkant, roses in the hundreds of thousands are everywhere in public areas. Irises were noted, but they had finished blooming.

Alushta is Santa Cruz's sister city. It is in the Crimea along the Black Sea. It is next door to Yalta, sister city to Santa Barbara. The flight from Tashkent to the principal city of the Crimea, Simferopol, afforded us the opportunity to see the first iris blooms. They were some diploids growing in the airport gardens. Interestingly, Simferopol is the sister city for Salem, Oregon.

In Alushta more irises were growing and they had just finishing bloom. Once more they were a range of diploids. However, at the wonderful Yalta Botanic Garden, more modern varieties were planted. But, like in so much of the Soviet Union, one gets the feeling of revisiting the 50's. The varieties growing there even echo this deja vu reaction. Some of the varieties noted included huge drifts of Pinnacle, Harbor Blue, Violet Harmony, and Emma Cook. The newest variety was either High Barbaree or perhaps Vitafire.

Returning to Moscow, we found the buds of the previous week in full bloom. They were mostly lavenders. We didn't have the opportunity for close inspection, but these were undoubtedly tetraploids of older vintage.

A boxful of Ghio hybrids were brought along as gifts. Some were left at the American Embassy in Moscow, the peace park in Tashkent, the Yalta Botanic Garden, and for the public plantings in Alushta. A little piece of Santa Cruz is now growing in the Soviet Union. Hopefully, this will whet appetites for updating and growing more of our favorite flower.

Exhibition Committee Report for 1989

Emma Hobbs

Last year it was drought. This year it was cool and wet. Some year the weather is going to be just right in all parts of the country for each organization's show dates. Until that time I reckon we'll continue to have show cancellations (nine of them this year) and shows not reported (six of them). Almost all of the cancellations occurred in the central part of the country. Maybe the weather has a better chance to "act up" there. On the bright side, however, there were more shows held this year than any other year in the past decade. 179 of them! This is working toward keeping our flower before the public!

Along with the increase of the number of shows came an increase in the percentage of shows that had participation in both the Youth Divisions and in Educational Exhibits. The Adult Artistics Divisions fell off very slightly.

The greatest number of shows held in any region was eighteen, in Region 14. This was followed by Region 18 with 17 shows, Region 22 with 16 and Region 17 with 15. Again there were three Fall Shows scheduled. Not many areas have sufficient remontant bloom to schedule a show, but some of these regions have reported Rebloomer displays set before the people locally.

The tally on the Nelson Award was interesting this year. SONG OF NORWAY took top honors in seven shows. First runner-up was DUSKY CHALLENGER with six shows; SKY HOOKS with five; BEVERLY SILLS, EASTERTIME, TITAN'S GLORY had four each; JESSE'S SONG, LADY FRIEND and MARY FRANCES each had three and JOYCE TERRY, ROSE QUEEN (JI), and SILVERADO had two apiece. The interesting thing here is that the spread was across the country for the top winners. More beardless iris shows would put some of the beardless iris in greater contention for this Award. Think about it!

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY SHOWS—1989

PLACE OF SHOW	SILVER MEDAL	BRONZE MEDAL	BEST SPECIMEN	EXHIBITOR
REGION 1				
Auburn, ME	The Whites	The Moors	Flamenco	Peter Young
New Haven, CT	Richard Kiyomoto	Shirley Varmette	Pink Palace	Bob Rousseau
Newtonville, MA	Sacks/Shafer	Barbara Roberts	Ling (JI)	Shafer/Sacks
South Paris, ME	The Hazeltons	Shirley Pope	Wilma's Choice (SDB)	Shirley Pope
REGION 2				
Buffalo, NY	Wendy Roller	Maria Gerbracht	Whoop Em Up	Wendy Roller
Cicero, NY	J. & L. Gristwood	J. & H. Schueler	Az Ap (IB)	Wendy Roller
REGION 3				
Dover, DE	Elizabeth Unruh	Theresa Jewell	Well Endowed	Elizabeth Unruh
Hanover, PA	Harold L. Griffie	George C. Bush	Dark Side	John Kearney
Harrisburg, PA	George Bush	Harold L. Griffie	Japanese Sandman (JI)	Larry Westfall
Kennett Square, PA	Mrs. Grant D. Kegerise	Larry & Joy Westfall	Peking Summer	Mrs. Grant D. Kegerise
Pittsburgh, PA	George Gerhardt	The Rogers	Joyce Terry	The Rogers
York, PA	Sterling Innerst	George Bush	Ballerina Blue	Sterling Innerst
REGION 4				
Burlington, NC	J. D. Stadler	E. Roy Epperson	Cloud Fire	Alice Bouldin
Charlotte, NC	Katharine M. Steele	B. J. Brown	Song of Norway	Elva Wagstaff
Easton, MD	Mary Etta Brightman	Richard Kleen	Consummation (MTB)	Mary Etta Brightman
Ellicot City, MD	Mr./Mrs. J. Owings Rebert	Carole Warner	Wine & Roses	Mr./Mrs. J. Owings Reber
Fredericksburg, VA	Lois Rose	Mr./Mrs. Jack Lovings	Superstition	Lois Rose
Hendersonville, NC	Walter Hoover	Isabelle Nix	Look The Loop	Isabelle Nix
Lightfoot, VA	Anne & Mike Lowe	James R. James	Song of Norway	Anne & Mike Lowe
Manassas, VA	Clarence Maan	Diana Nicholls	Rose Queen (JI)	Richard Sparling

Virginia Beach, VA Washington, DC	Pat Dawley Don Spoon	Rich Randall Clarence Mahan	Midnight Express Titan's Glory	Ron Harris Don Spoon
REGION 5				
Columbia, SC Decatur, GA Milledgeville, GA	Peggy & Jim Jeffcoat Harry Turner Joe & Janet Watson	Ted Lee Pat Johnson Earnest & Juanita Yearwood	Matinata Sunshine Song	Irene Wegezynowski Harry Turner
Spartanburg, SC Summerville, SC	John W. Wood John Wood	Pat Johnson Pat Johnson	Entourage Laced Cotton Gay Gallant (JI)	Emily Wheeler Marshall Goforth Joe Watson
REGION 6				
Akron, OH Akron, OH Cleveland, OH Columbus, OH Comins, MI Grand Rapids, MI Indianapolis, IN Lansing, MI Mansfield, OH Muncie, IN Portage, MI Portage, MI Royal Oak, MI	Tony & Dorothy Willott Wilford James Tony & Dorothy Willott Nina Sams Nelson Yoder Carol Kerr Russell Bruno Dick Ferris E. Christine Creamens Noel Ann Turner Duane Darling Ensata Gardens Donna Calhoun	Mike James Tony & Dorothy Willott Otho & Violet Boone Lura Emig Wayne E. Neumann Doris DeHaan Jack & Glenda Norrick Ruth Esper Joan M. Sowers Jack & Glenda Norrick John Coble Mr./Mrs. Ron Miller Joan Kepf	Savvy (SDB) Grand Waltz Windwood Spring (SIB) Sailmaster Gracie Pfost Titan's Glory Mary Frances Tectorum Blue Sky Hooks Sounder (BB) Silver Shower Prairie Delight (JI) Foolish Pleasure	Tony & Dorothy Willott Shelley Lyon Mike James Nina Sams Nelson Yoder Doris DeHaan Alan Stam Dick Ferris Ruth P. Drosos Carl & Christie Leisure Don Morrison Ensata Gardens Joan Kepf
REGION 7				
Bowling Green, KY Germantown, TN Jackson, TN Lebanon, TN Lewisburg, TN Lexington, KY Louisville, KY Murfreesboro, TN Nashville, TN	Lou Ehrcke Jim Russell Nadine Avent Inez Turns Edith Kidd Albert C. Dierckes Paul Owen Jerry & Jane Gifford Jerry Gifford	Jim Bingham Lottie Lough Bob Love Jim Bingham Regena Crutchfield Ed Roberts Robert Strohman Neal & Edith Kidd Regina Crutchfield	Song of Norway Evening Gown Eastertime Song of Norway Eastertime Eastertime Titan's Glory Mt. Olympus Dusky Challenger	Inez Turns Larry Browning James Petterson Inez Turns A. C. Fitzgerald Linda Sullivan Rodney Adams Gary & Debra Sides Mrs. Donald King
REGION 8				
Blaine, MN Fond Du Lac, WI Hales Corner, WI Madison, WI Minneota, MN	Inge Hempel Paula Meyer Ed Boese Dan Thruman Rita Dove	Jack Worel Chuck Holtz Sandra Lemmer Ed Kelsey Mildred Odenbutt	Nursery School (BB) Orchid Echo Jesse's Song Oriental Etching Song of Norway	Inge Hempel Chuck Holtz Ed Boese Dan Thruman Pam Stassen
REGION 9				
Alton, IL Freeport, IL Lombard, IL Lombard, IL Urbana, IL	Sheldon Butt Francis Brenner Russell Bruno Donovan Albers Jerry & Melody Wilhoit	Riley Probst Karl Jensen Marge Hagbert Joan Moritz Steve Varner	Jesse's Song Lemon Mist Jade Mist (SDB) Malaguena Chickasaw Sue (BB)	Orville Dickhaut John Knaus Russell Bruno Donovan Albers Jerry & Melody Wilhoit
REGION 10				
Lafayette, LA	Rusty Ostheimer	Charles W. Amy, Jr.	Ila Nunn (LA)	Albert Fagard
REGION 11				
Missoula, MT	Ken & Rosemary Baier	Billie & Bob Gray	Vivian	Ken & Rosemary Baier
REGION 12				
Layton, UT	Brad & Kathy Kasperek	Ray Pulley	Silverado	Dr. Alan Toronto
REGION 13				
East Bellevue, WA Portland, OR Portland, OR Portland, OR Puyallup, WA Richland, WA Seattle, WA	Kathy Hawley Kay Ludi Kay Ludi Chad Harris Elvin Van Slyke Don Doyle Carla McGavran	Florence Weed Joann Derr Joann Derr — Marjorie Kilbourn Clyde Mead Warren Noyes/ Bob Bruland (tie) Myrtle Troope Margaret McCrae	Spinning Wheel Bright Vision (SDB) Flair Knight in Armor (JI) Song of Norway Lorilee Dusky Challenger Edna's Wish First Endeavor	Debbie Cole Ruth Jackson Laura Moritz Chad Harris Helen Dudley Don Doyle Fran Hawk Frank Nickell Alan 'Les' Fort
Spokane, WA Walla Walla, WA	Norma Lunden Billie Johnson			
REGION 14				
Capitola, CA Chico, CA Cupertino, CA Fresno, CA Hanford, CA Las Vegas, NV Las Vegas, NV Oakland, CA Palo Alto, CA Rancho Cordova, CA	Joe Ghio Robert Annand Gigi Hall Bill Tyson Bill Tyson Oscar A. Schick Berkeley Hunt Alan Robbins Lois Belardi	Lois Belardi Carole Vossen Joe Ghio Dolores Bates Fran Weiler Helen Cochran Ernest Maddox Lewis & Adele Lawyer Barbara Gordon	Classico Gelee Royale (OGB) Entourage Goddess Spice Custard Bimini (BB) Grand Ole Opry Jesse's Song Eurasin (SPU)	Carol Jarratt Carole Vossen Don & Mary Savant Bill Tyson Fran Weiler Patricia & Gary Saffell Mrs. Howard Wald Ken Kehl Lois Belardi

ALL SEEDLING SHOW—(NO AWARDS OTHER THAN EXHIBITION CERTIFICATES)

Redding, CA	Bill Brown	Georgia Maxim	Mary Frances	Judy Wallach
Redding, CA	Carole Vossen	Claudia Owen	Turkish Fez (AB)	Carole Vossen
Sacramento, CA	Frederick J. Kerr	Joyce Ragle	Ron	Frederick J. Kerr
Santa Rosa, CA	Hal Mattos	Damon Hill	Trick Or Treat	Jim Begley
Tulare, CA	Bill Tyson	Fran Weiler	Sky Hooks	Bill Tyson
Ukiah, CA	Sue Tosten	Joanne McGrew	Smoke Rings	Alisa Loberg
Walnut Creek, CA	Alan Robbins	Gigi Hall	Bhutan Beauty (MTB)	Gigi Hall
Weott, CA	Betty Thomas	Sue Totten	Gold Trimmings	Roger Clark
REGION 15				
Arcadia, CA	Judith Mogil	Peter DeSantis	—	—
Arcadia, CA	Joan Wight	F. Duncan Eader	Soft Skies	Maxine Gould
Palmdale, CA	Billy DeHaas	Rinda Van Lennep	Friendship (IB)	Pat Girl
Phoenix, AZ	Jan & Gary Meeker	Charlene Errigo	Cinnamon Roll (SPU)	Charlene Errigo
Riverside, CA	Hamner's Iris Gardens	Corrine A. Bromberger	Dusky Challenger	Hamner's Iris Gardens
San Diego, CA	Bob Brooke	Linda Moore	Sky Hooks	Linda Moore
Tucson, AZ	Jim Sinski	Sally Cooperman	Joyce Terry	Leslie Follett
Woodland Hills, CA	Judy Mogil	Myrna Hood	Jazz Jubilee	Myrna Hood
REGION 17				
Amarillo, TX	Kenneth Mazurek	Marie Glover	Dusky Challenger	John Chaney
Austin, TX	Lorraine & Ray Dragon	Jim Landers	White Raiment	Lorraine & Ray Dragon
Belton, TX	Fadine Hanna	Lorraine Johnson	Temple Gold	Maudie Landers
Dallas, TX	Bonnie Brewer	Doelors Byrne	Titan's Glory	Gene Cawfield
El Paso, TX	Col. & Mrs. Garth Riddler	Luella Danielson	Mill Valley	M. Maldonado
Fort Worth, TX	William B. Powell	Peggy Williams	Wild Berry	Chris Hunter
Fort Worth, TX	Tom Welches	Patsy Rosen	Lady Friend	Callie Pounds
Iowa Park, TX	William K. Parker, Jr.	Ruth James	Muted Melody	Syble Roberson
Lubbock, TX	Mr./Mrs. Richard Wilber	Don Rude	Eastertime	Dana Brown
Midland, TX	Debra Strauss	Joella Olson	Vanity	Floy & Vernon Lilley
New Braunfels, TX	Dr. & Mrs. Clyde Ikins	Kenneth Triesch	Navajo Jewell	Dr. & Mrs. W. Clyde Ikins
Odessa, TX	Debra Strauss	E. V. Williams	New Wine	Debra Strauss
Sherman, TX	Helen Hicks	Frances Maddox	Hellcat (IB)	Judith Earp
Sherman, TX	Randolph & Milly Hall	Ira & Thelma Inman	Lady Friend	Jane Walden
Waco, TX	Hazel Haik	W. C. Haynes	Cayenne Peppers	Hazel Haik
REGION 18				
Cape Girardeau, MO	O. D. Niswonger	Allen Gathman	Time Piece	Allen Gathman
DeSoto, MO	Ann & Riley Probst	Carla Steinkoetter	Straw Hat (SDB)	Carla Steinkoetter
DeSoto, MO	Sheldon Butt	S. Stevens	Tide's IN	S. Stevens
Dodge City, KS	Robert Preston	Keith Fillmore	Catalyst	Marti Woods
Garden City, KS	Keith Fillmore	Wanda Smith	First Sergeant (AR)	Wanda Smith
Garden City, KS	Dale Smith	J. C. Sinclair	Golden Ballerina	Keith Fillmore
Hays, KS	Geneva Dies	Irma Torrey	Orchid Raye (BB)	Geneva Dies
Hays, KS	Irma Torrey	Wanda Smith	Shipshape	Irma Torrey
Hutchinson, KS	Mike Hargrove	Pat Dixon	Glorious Sunshine	Evelyn Neier
Jefferson City, MO	Jim Hedgecock	Eric Tankesley-Clarke	Lace Jabot	Al Apsher
Joplin, MO	John Gass	Anna Belle Gass	Bel Canto	Bill Chapman
Kansas City, MO	Jim Hedgecock	Faye Carpenter	Skating Party	Dolores Denney
Parsons, KS	Lee Robbins	Bill Chapman	Coral Calice	Hazel Charles
St. Charles, MO	Roy Bohrer	Sheldon Butt	Noon Siesta	Ann & Riley Probst
St. Louis, MO	Sheldon Butt	Riley Probst	Shawnee Whisper	Riley Probst
St. Louis, MO	Sheldon Butt	Don Delmez	Clyde Redmond (LA)	Don Delmez
Washington, MO	Sheldon Butt	Mary Ferguson	Big Dipper	Edna Dutton
REGION 19				
Princeton, NJ	Chun, Fan	Elizabeth Aulicky	Evelyn's Echo	Chun, Fan
REGION 20				
Colorado Springs, CO	John & Jeri Knudtson	Mr. M. W. James	Colorado Sunshine	Tom Magee
Denver, CO	Joan James	John & Jeri Knudtson	Sky Hooks	John & Jeri Knudtson
REGION 21				
Columbus, NE	Don Peterson	Agnes M. Hottovy	Mary Frances	Cecelia Sypal
Lincoln, NE	Eugene Kalkwarf	Allan Ensminger	Prancing Pony	Gene Parson
Norfolk, NE	Cal Reuter	Larry Harder	Victoria Falls	Don Peterson
Omaha, NE	Gaddie's Gardens	Dennis Wolf	Breakers	Jerry Arp
Scotts Bluff, NE	Julie Feil	Lu Hoyt	Silverado	Lu Hoyt
Sioux City, IA	Larry L. Harder	Dennis J. Wolf	Bronze Sculpture	Dennis J. Wolf
Sioux Falls, SD	Chuck & Signey Claussen	Clarence Dybvig	Beverly Sills	Chuck & Signey Claussen
REGION 22				
Altus, OK	Bebe Reimer	Mozell Raley	Beverly Sills	Mozell Raley
Edmond, OK	Jim Hawley	Leigh Ellis	Beverly Sills	Kay Baker
Enid, OK	Bill Frass	Dana Wade	Beverly Sills	Bill Frass
Hot Springs, AR	Tim & Debbie Hassell	Susie Smith	Melon Time (LA)	Tim & Debbie Hassell
Lawton, OK	Ruth Simmons	Mr./Mrs. Howard Edwards	Master Touch	Ruth Simmons
Little Rock, AR	Doris Boyles	Tom Dillard	Sky Hooks	Doris Boyles
Norman, OK	Leona Spence	Laverne Sullivan	Dusky Challenger	Leona Spence

Oklahoma City, OK	Paul Black	Maxine Hawley	Soft Breeze (SDB)	Paul Black
Oklahoma City, OK	Paul Black	Jim Hawley	Edith Wolford	Paul Black
Oklahoma City, OK	F. W. McVicker	Genevieve Followwill	Dusky Challenger	Jimmy Wage
Ponca City, OK	Dorothy I. Gill	Ray L. Cantwell	Blue Staccato	Ray L. Cantwell
Searcy, AR	LaVera Burkett	Alice Jewell	Brown Lasso (BB)	Jewell Ozbirn
Tulsa, OK	Dorothy Howard	Rilla Hickerson	Short Distance (IB)	Dorothy Howard
Tulsa, OK	Dean & Georgia Brand	Dorothy Howard	Black Tornado	Dean & Georgia Brand
Woodward, OK	W. G. Frass	Dana Wade	Song of Norway	W. B. Frass
Woodward, OK	Hooker Nichols	Lola Peach	Quark (SDB)	Lillian Luinstra
REGION 23				
Albuquerque, NM	Sara Doonan	Valerie White	Country Manor	Sara Doonan
Albuquerque, NM	Irene Shockey	Howard Shockey	Silver Years	Sara Doonan
Hobbs, NM	Doug Goodnight	Becky Seigman	Columbia Blue	Doug Goodnight
Las Cruces, NM	Maxine Perkins	Cindy Myers	Lady Friend	Mamie Myers
Santa Fe, NM	Jill Anlian-Ward	Margaret Johnson	Elmohr (AB)	Everett Remmers
REGION 24				
Birmingham, AL	Mrs. E.P. Miles & Jan Elizabeth	Mr/Mrs Joe M. Langdon	First Blush	Joe & Olive Langdon
Huntsville, AL	Sue McNeal	Don Dunston	Gold Galore	Sue McNeal

FALL SHOWS

REGION 4				
Falmouth, VA	Diana Nicholls	Dennis Stoneburner	Jennifer Rebecca	Diana Nicholls
PLACE OF SHOW	SILVER MEDAL, Youth	BRONZE MEDAL, Youth	BEST SPECIMEN, Youth	EXHIBITOR, Youth

YOUTH SECTIONS

REGION 4				
Easton, MD	Meade Windsor	—	—	—
Fredericksburg, VA	Shannon Glasshoff	Joel Glasshoff	Launching Pad	Shannon Glasshoff
REGION 5				
Columbia, SC	—	—	Villain	Michelle George
Decatur, GA	Doug Grace	Andrew Cohilas	Apropos	Chris Cohilas
Milledgeville, GA	Danny Watson	Andrea Johnson	Catalyst	Andrea Johnson
REGION 6				
Comins, MI	J. T. Ross	Jennifer Ross (tie)	Frontier Marshal	J. T. Ross
		Luke Ross (tie)		
Mansfield, OH	Cathy Ridenour	—	Bedazzled	Julie A. Weaver
Muncie, IN	Nathan Miller	Alyssa Shaul	Butter Pecan (IB)	Nathan Miller
REGION 7				
Lexington, KY	Evelyn Eddington	Nichole Gastineau	Dial O Leanne Barker	Leanne Barker
REGION 8				
Minneota, MN	—	—	Brahms Lullaby	Nicki Anderson
REGION 9				
Lombard, IL	—	—	Pale Cloud (IB)	Ron Kraft
Urbana, IL	Kris Kirkwood	Jason Wilhoit	Lady Mohr (AB)	Jason Wilhoit
REGION 13				
Richland, WA	Jaren Fort	(3-way tie) Britton Fort, Rebecca Sumsion & Joe Sumsion	Superstition	William Sumsion
REGION 14				
Chico, CA	David Bracy	Bob Owen	Song of Erin	Bob Owen
Cupertino, CA	—	—	Trick Or Treat	Jerry Simmons
Fresno, CA	Mike Tyson	Robert Tyson	—	—
Oakland, CA	—	—	Red Bang	Joanna Piper
Redding, CA	—	—	Pray For Peace	Bob Owen
Tulare, CA	Richard Holaday, Jr.	Michelle Matheny	Circus Stripes	Michelle Matheny
Ukiah, CA	Alisa Loberg	Kindra Schussel	Smoke Rings	Alisa Loberg
Walnut Creek, CA	—	—	Bicentennial	Christopher Boswell
REGION 15				
Phoenix, AZ	—	—	Color Carnival	Jennifer Mosca
REGION 17				
Fort Worth, TX	—	—	Roman Lover	Heather Hettier
Waco, TX	Andrea Sais	Cody Newman	Plum Gleam	Cody Newman
REGION 18				
Garden City, KS	Kenny Smith	Trenton Smith	Jacob's Well (AB)	Kenny Smith
Garden City, KS	Mike Ortiz	Kenneth Smith	Vanity	Kenneth Smith
Hays, KS	Tricia-Traub	—	King's Jester	Tricia Traub
Hutchinson, KS	Sherlyn Bradley	Andy Stout	Pacific Mist	Mark Neier
Jefferson City, MO	—	—	Stepping Out	Sarah Thacker
Joplin, MO	—	—	Hey Looky	Karissa Conduff

Parsons, KS	—	—	Utah Valley	Candi Cooper
St. Charles, MO	—	—	Splash of Wine	Charles Elgart
REGION 19				
Princeton, NJ	—	—	Patina	Rebecca Wurmbrandt
REGION 20				
Colorado Springs, CO	Jessica Knudtson	Ann Knudtson	Sky Hooks	Jessica Knudtson
REGION 21				
Scottsbluff, NE	—	—	Rondo	Grady Costello
REGION 22				
Edmond, OK	—	—	Heather Cloud	Robin Kettler
Enid, OK	Brandon Hackett	—	Playgirl	George Tripp
Norman, OK	Melissa Houchin	John & Derek Houchin & Nickel Butler	Syncopation	Melissa Houchin
Oklahoma City, OK	—	—	Everything Plus	Matt Hirsch
Oklahoma City, OK	—	—	Rosecraft	Brittany Juergens
Tulsa, OK	Glen Tortorici	—	Mystique	Glen Tortorici
REGION 23				
Albuquerque, NM	Catherine Pagano	Kelly Doonan	Queen of Hearts	Catharine Pagano
Albuquerque, NM	Kurt Latimer	Shannon Latimer	Chico Maid	Kelly Doonan
Hobbs, NM	Chris Seigman	Shari Seigman	Well Endowed	Shari Seigman
Las Cruces, NM	Daniel Myers	Jessica Marquez	Cherry Smoke	Jessica Marquez
Santa Fe, NM	Rory Collins	—	Shining Water	Rory Collins

ARTISTIC SECTIONS

PLACE OF SHOW	BEST DESIGN	ARTISTIC SWEEPSTAKES	BEST DESIGN YOUTH	ARTISTIC SWEEPSTAKES, Youth
REGION 1				
Auburn, ME	Pauline Grenier	Alice Yates	—	—
Newtonville, MA	Jean Doucette	—	—	—
South Paris, ME	Alice E. Yates	Alice E. Yates	—	—
REGION 2				
Buffalo, NY	Dave Baehre	—	—	—
Cicero, NY	Dorothy Storms	—	—	—
REGION 3				
Dover, DE	Mrs. Arthur F. Martin	—	—	—
Kennett Square, PA	Joy Westfall	Joy Westfall	—	—
Pittsburgh, PA	—	Lenna Easter	—	—
York, PA	Sara Senft	—	—	—
REGION 4				
Charlotte, NC	Helen Smith	—	—	—
Fredericksburg, VA	Freda Martin	Edna Weimer	—	—
Washington, DC	Dolores Felch	Dolores Felch	—	—
REGION 5				
Columbia, SC	Peggy Sease	—	—	—
Decatur, GA	Mrs. Tom Roland	—	—	—
Milledgeville, GA	Earnest Yearwood	Juanita Yearwood	Danny Watson	—
Spartanburg, SC	Phyllis Bird	Nell Kirby	Tammy Goforth	—
—				
Summerville, SC	Mrs. P. R. Black	Mrs. P. R. Black	—	—
REGION 6				
Akron, OH	Dorothy Willott	Dorothy Willott	—	—
Akron, OH	Georgia Rhodes	Wilford James	—	—
Cleveland, OH	Toni Repp	Toni Repp	—	—
Columbus, OH	Lila Aldrich	Lila Aldrich	—	—
Comins, MI	Deborah Evans	Rosey Ross	Luke Ross	Jennifer Ross
Grand Rapids, MI	Lois Wier	Lois Wier	—	—
Indianapolis, IN	Maxine Wann	Maxine Wann	—	—
Lansing, MI	Virginia Maynard	Virginia Maynard	Colette Falco	—
Mansfield, OH	Martha J. Beal	Martha J. Beal	Jonathan Applegate	—
Muncie, IN	Betty Thomas	Betty Thomas	—	—
Portage, MI	Bernard Jones	Bernard Jones	—	—
Portage, MI	Leland M. Welsh	Bernard Jones	—	—
REGION 7				
Bowling Green, KY	Irene Hughes	Irene Hughes	—	—
Germantown, TN	Melanie Sims	—	—	—
Lebanon, TN	Margaret Joines	Margaret Joines	—	—
Louisville, KY	Helen Harrigan	Helen Harrigan	—	—
Nashville, TN	Mrs. Donald King	—	—	—
REGION 8				
Blaine, MN	Eleanor Thompson	Eleanore Thompson	—	—
Fond Du Lac, WI	Carol Boelter	—	—	—
Hales Corner, WI	Gladys Robaczek	Gladys Robaczek	—	—
Madison, WI	Elaine Myhre	—	—	—
Minneota, MN	Rae Jean Gee	—	—	—
REGION 9				
Alton, IL	Rosemary Newman	Rosemary Newman	—	—
Freeport, IL	Floyd Markham	Nancy Pilipuf	—	—
Lombard, IL	Henrietta Marks	William Hessel	—	—
Lombard, IL	William Hessel	William Hessel	—	—
REGION 10				
Lafayette, LA	Josephine Wiggins	—	—	—

REGION 12				
Layton, UT	Charlotte Easter	Marian Daniels	—	—
REGION 13				
Portland, OR	Sandra Ryan	Verna Bennett	—	—
Portland, OR	Laverne Shelhamer	Nancy Miller	—	David Ludi
Portland, OR	Laverne Shelhamer	Laverne Shelhamer	David Ludi	Kristi Hoecker
Puyallup, WA	Evelyn Swensrud	Carole Breedlove	—	—
Richland, WA	Roberta Snell	Terry Ledbetter	Amanda Scott	—
Spokane, WA	Paul Harms	Paul Harms	—	—
Walla Walla, WA	Sandra Ryan	Verna Bennett	—	—
REGION 14				
Chico, CA	—	Erna Garton	—	—
Fresno, CA	Lucile Smith	—	—	—
Hanford, CA	—	Eulalie Godfrey	—	—
Las Vegas, NV	Dorothy Leigh	—	—	—
Las Vegas, NV	Mrs. Maroin Ray	Mrs. Mark Condo	—	—
Redding, CA	Mary Pettigrew	Jessie Roberson	Julie Wielenga	—
Tulare, CA	Linda Chamberlain	Linda Chamberlain	—	—
Ukiah, CA	Lolita Falconer	Ruby Hulbert	Victoria Young	—
Weott, CA	Sue Tosten	—	—	—
REGION 15				
Arcadia, CA	Dorothy Jean Spoelstra	Dorothy Jean Spoelstra	—	—
Palmdale, CA	Pat Girt	—	Gary Field	Mike Burner
Phoenix, AZ	Clemence Newcomb	Clarice Maben	Cristal Parkinson	Cristal Parkinson
Riverside, CA	Winifred Conklin	Winifred Conklin	—	—
San Diego, CA	Dorothy Driscoll	—	—	—
Tucson, AZ	Charlotte Clarke	—	—	—
Woodland Hills, CA	Jan Lauritzen	Joan Vance	Ridi Lauritzen	Ridi Lauritzen
REGION 17				
Austin, TX	Pat Freeman	Pat Freeman	—	—
Dallas, TX	Mrs. Gordon M. Baud	Mrs. Gordon M. Baud	—	—
El Paso, TX	Niki Riddler	—	—	—
Fort Worth, TX	Helen Welches	Helen Welches	—	—
Iowa Park, TX	Eura Hawkins	Shirley Tate	Ky Hunter	Ky Hunter
Lubbock, TX	Margaret Coil	Margaret Coil	—	—
Midland, TX	Mary Newton	Mary Newton	—	—
Sherman, TX	Anita Rodgers	Anita Rodgers	—	—
Sherman, TX	Ellen Sullivan	Ellen Sullivan	—	—
Waco, TX	Hazel Haik	Hazel Haik	—	—
REGION 18				
DeSoto, MO	Carla Steinkoetter	—	—	—
DeSoto, MO	Carla Steinkoetter	Priscilla Pooker	—	—
Dodge City, KS	Gertrude Goddard	Alice Sinclair	—	—
Garden City, KS	Frances Tomchak	Frances Tomchack	Nick Smith	Nick Smith
Garden City, KS	Kieth Fillmore	Frances Tomchack	Tim Smith	—
Hays, KS	Cheryl Traub	Bea Gross	—	—
Hays, KS	Geneva Dies	Geneva Dies	—	—
Hutchinson, KS	Sandra Grimm	Pat Dixon	Sherlyn Bradley	Sherlyn Bradley
Jefferson City, KS	Bonnie Culley	Carole Van Vranken	Martha Merrill	—
Joplin, MO	Betty M. Marty	Betty M. Marty	Josie Gass	—
Kansas City, KS	Kaye Beach	Kaye Beach	Jessica Smith	—
Parsons, KS	Lucy Pearce	Mary Babcock	—	—
St. Charles, MO	Virginia Hill	Virginia Hill	Joey Italian	—
St. Louis, MO	Brad Eilering	Cathy Perey	—	—
Washington, MO	Vee Alexander	Rosa Kampshroeder	—	—
REGION 20				
Colorado Springs, CO	Suzanne Rodgers	Suzanne Rodgers	Jessica Knudtson	Jessica Knudtson
Denver, CO	Fran Wittgartner	Fran Wittgartner	—	—
REGION 21				
Columbus, NE	Don Peterson	Don Peterson	—	—
Lincoln, NE	—	Gladys Ensminger	—	—
Norfolk, NE	Rosa Brinegar	Rosa Brinegar	—	—
Omaha, NE	Jean Lorence	Sally Guest	—	—
Scottsbluff, NE	—	Virginia Hartman	—	—
Sioux City, IA	Dennis J. Wolf	Denis J. Wolf	—	—
Sioux Falls, SD	Charles Hemmer	Charles Hemmer	—	—
REGION 22				
Altus, OK	Ruby Parr	Ruby Parr	—	—
Edmond, OK	Karen Hirsch	Karen Hirsch	Matt Hirsch (4-10) Elizabeth Snyder (11-18)	Matt Hirsch
Enid, OK	Veda Moore	Veda Moore	—	—
Hot Springs, AR	Tim Hassell	Tim Hassell	—	—
Lawton, OK	Mary Ann Holman	Mary Ann Holman	—	—
Little Rock, AR	Stephen Russell	Doris Boyles	—	—
Norman, OK	Leona Spence	Leona Spence	Melissa Houchin	Melissa Houchin
Oklahoma City, OK	Genevieve Followwill	Genevieve Followwill	Christina Sissensten	Brittany Juergens
Tulsa, OK	Jean Chelsea	Kaye Burnham	—	—
REGION 23				
Albuquerque, NM	Betty Roberts	—	Kelly Doonan	Kelly Doonan
Hobbs, NM	Doug Goodnight	Alma Maxwell	—	—
Las Cruces, NM	Donna Holland	Cathy Peterson	—	—
Santa Fe, NM	Diana DiPalma	Sylvia Chavez	Angelica Chavez	Angela Chavez
REGION 24				
Huntsville, AL	Mrs. Jack Lucas	Mrs. Jack Lucas	—	—

EDUCATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL

Place of Show	Educational Exhibit	Commercial Exhibit
REGION 4 Lightfoot, VA	James R. James	
REGION 5 Decatur, GA Summerville, SC	Mrs. Laura Lewis & Son, David Summerville Iris Society	
REGION 6 Lansing, MI Muncie, IN Portage, MI Portage, MI	Ruth Esper Jack Norrick and John DeJung Anna Mae Miller Sue Copeland and Mrs. Ronald Miller	
REGION 7 Bowling Green, KY Lebanon, TN Louisville, KY	Betty Wilkinson Margaret Joines Paul Owen	
REGION 10 Lafayette, LA	Mr./Mrs. Russell Bourque	
REGION 13 East Bellevue Puyallup, WA Richland, WA Portland, OR*	— Elvin Van Slyke —	Kirkland Iris Gardens — commercial florist table or iris designs—not judged.
REGION 14 Oakland, CA	Ed & Jacque Wilkinson	
REGION 17 Austin, TX New Braunfels, TX	Lorrane & Ray Dragon Florence Flesher	
REGION 18 Cape Girardeau, MO Dodge City, KS Garden City, KS Hays, KS St. Charles, MO	Opal Harris Marti Woods Shilo Galliam (Youth) Geneva Dies Joey Italian (Youth)	
REGION 22 Edmond, OK Lawton, OK Little Rock, AR Norman, OK Oklahoma City, OK Oklahoma City, OK	Bonnie Hadaway & Mary Watson Marjorie Puckett Doris Boyles — — —	Chris Vizvarie Chris Vizvarie Chris Vizvarie
REGION 23 Albuquerque, NM Albuquerque, NM	Sara Doonan Irene Shockey	

*Portland, OR	—	Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden
		Schreiner's Gardens
Portland, OR	—	Laurie's Garden
		Caprice Garden
		Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden



NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED
 BY REGION

Region	Number of Shows	Position
14	18	1
18	17	2
22	16	3
17	15	4
6	13	5
4	10	6
13	9	7
7	9	
15	8	9
21	7	10
3	6	11
23	5	12
9	5	
8	5	
5	5	
1	4	16
24	2	17
20	2	
2	2	
19	1	20
12	1	
11	1	
10	1	
16	0	24

American Iris Society

Exhibition Certificates Issued

During 1989 Show Season

TALL BEARDED

Anderson, Terry	89-9-7	Kegerise, Mrs. Richard	132-84
Bingham, James	84-4-5	Kelsey, Ed	RLS
Black, Paul	85254AA	Knauss, John	P1489
	86103G		P989
Blocher, Clarence	Ann Blocher	Knudtson, John & Jeri	83-2-B
Bohrer, Roy	83-QVP		Boys' Town
Boyd, Harry	84-15-9	Lange, Anthony	12-86-1
	84-9-4	Magee, Tom	86-18
Brown, B. J.	0285		8113J
	0189		8339C
	4080		8423B
Burke, James	87BUA		8121C
Butler, Mr./Mrs. Richard	246	Mallory, Robert	AGcB
Chapman, Bill	8-23-84	Miller, David	DM85-5A
Claussen, Chuck & Signey	82-12	Moller, Mike	80-A-1
Claussen, Charles	85-122-15	Morrison, Don	9841-2
	82-70	Mueller, Adam	86-48-5
	86-46-1	Nearpass, C.	88-22
Clough, W. H.	85D 217	Nichols, Hooker	8867A
Davis, Eugene	Beautiful Robe		8867C
Denny, Don/McWhirter	D79-16 Sinister		8701K
Doonan, Sarah	84-29-4	Niswonger, O. D.	Kingly Dignity
Dragon, Raymond & Lorraine			Nefertitti's Daughter
	Rebecca Ann x Sapphire Hills	Olsen, Mercedes	1AA-88-2
Ensminger, Allan	186-45	Olson, Lois & Orvid	83C1
Fillmore, Keith	86-15-1	Poole, Steve	Aaron's Bluebell
Fort, Alan 'Les'	86-126-H	Powell, Bill	9-26-80
Fort, Lyle E.	82-3-A	Reuter, Cal	87-90
	*86-152-W	Ritter, Ed	1915-20-89
	85-72-N	Roberts, Ed	899
Gass, John	F-84-16	Rogers, Frances	F 607 M
Ghio, Joe	85-40-I		F-514-O
Gill, Dorothy	89-1-11	Rudolph, Nathan	87-05
Hager, Ben	T4659WB1		84-10
Hall, Earl	**86-144-SNC	Saia, Joe	86-12-2
Hamner Iris Garden	85-776	Shockey, Howard	84-210-7A
Hedgecock, Jim	84-55-1		86-248-A
	8476E		86-224-P
Hemmer, Charles	CH 85-19-B	Sides, Gary	*BC45-F37
Hemmer, Pat	PH 8211B	Smith, Louise	78-B
Hickerson, Alva	83-3-1	Smith, Wanda	87-94
Hunt, Berkeley	76-49-1	Spoon, Don	89-4
Innerst, Sterling	2964 B10		89-10
Kegerise, Mrs. Grant D.	83-433-1		

Stadler, J. D.	H 18/81 J 21/1 K 10/12	Nichols, Hooker	Broadway Dream Cimarron Rose
Stahly, Hal	86-6	Palmer, Cleo	8970
Stevens, Steve	80-24-9 79-28-3	Shoup, Marvin	892 886 8124
Strohman, Robert	86-10-1	Sparling, Richard	RCS 22
Thayer, Lloyd	86-89-44		Slate 'n' Gold
Visvarie, Chris	2D-85NB PT 109	Varner, Steve	9030
Worrell, Jack	19-20-3	Visvarie, Chris	GR-1
Zarky, Michael	85-54	Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	84-56 84-64
Zurbrigg, Lloyd	**V4-1-3 **95-OCT		84-16 84-61

BORDER BEARDED

Burch, James	Big Victory
Byers, Monty	G59-5
Fort, Alan 'Les'	86-123-D
Harrell, Estle	BB1
Lysne, Rod	80-13M
Peterson, Don	DP 83-1
Roderick, Elvan	8502
Sutton, George H.	5-118R

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

Hempel, Inge	H-34-1
Nearpass, C.	80-1

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

Fillmore, Keith	8605-4 8605-2
Gaddie's Garden	18-7
Jones, Bennett	82-2
Palmer, Cleo	89124
Willott, Anthony & Dorothy	84-155 88-110

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

Aitkens, Terry	85 M85-11
Albers, Donovan	8720B 8371
Black, Paul	89259A 86269B 86270A 84-11-A 3787C 4187C 3587C 1185A 2687B
Briscoe, Harley	
Miller, R & L	

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

Black, Paul	86262B
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SIBERIAN

Sacks, J./Shafer, M.	S-85-13-3
Stadler, J.D.	L42/5
Warner, Carole	C-10
Wood, John, W-120-87	W-120-87

LOUISIANA

Arny, Charles	Bit-Lav-1-84
Granger, Marvin	82-6
Haymon, Dorman	84-10-1
Shepard, Donald	LA89515

CALIFORNICAE

Ghio, Joe	PK-100P It's Wild
Kiyomoto, Richard	86 K 145
Wood, Vern	88-40

JAPANESE

Ackerman, Bill	ACK-commodate A4-10-32 A6-3
	ACK-SCAAT PINK A4-5-81 A4-4-85
Aitken, Terry	86J-11
Copeland, James, Jr.	80-15-1
Copeland, Jill	86-1 83-005
Ensata Gardens	J82B-3 J86J-8 J85B-13
Harris, Chad	85JA-1

Innerst, Sterling	1532-2	ARIL	
Mahan, Clarence	JA7-1	Danielson, Luella	82-5
Paquette, Shirley	JP86-1	Vossen, Carole	58A025
Sacks, J./Shafer, M.	787-3-4		
Wood, John	1W-102	UNCLASSIFIED BEARDLESS	
		Vossen, Carole	
SPURIA		Holden Clough x ivory pseudacorus	
Belardi, Lois	PHW-10	*Same seedling was best in two different	
Jenkins, Charles	0-17-7S	shows.	
		**Remontant	

Beautiful Japanese Irises

Rosalie Yerkes Figge (Maryland)

Japanese irises were SO beautiful this year—it is difficult to select only a few that were the most impressive. How about *JAPANESE PINWHEEL* (McEwen)!! This stole the show, and the bidding at the auction almost reached astronomical heights! It is a dark velvet red with a frosted edge.

And *ROSE FRAPPÉ* (Anna Mae Miller) had erect styles and the petals were, of course, rose and frosted with a bluish wash. *LITTLE SNOWMAN* (Vogt) was a darling. I do like an occasional smaller one. This is white with a greenish-yellow signal and little petaloids. *ORIENTAL EYES* is another perfection by Adolph Vogt. The yellow signal gives the “eye” effect. It is a beauty!

IAPETUS (Innerst '88) is another on my “want” list. (After I learned how to pronounce it) It has deep bluish-violet veins that get more reddish at the edge of the petals and the styles are the same deep color. That, and *JACASTA* (Innerst '88) are startling garden attractions. The latter has that fascinating light wire rim around the petal edges. I find that narrow rims are most attractive—such as *FROSTBOUND* (Reid '71) and *FLASHING KOI* (Marx '78) with its red purple center and veins contrasting against the white edges.

FRECKLED GEISHA (Reid '81) was also outstanding and so well named with its wine freckles on white and the white styles are edged with wine. A large planting of this really draws one across the garden. *CRYSTAL HALO* (Marx '58) naturally has a “halo” along the edges of purple petals.

Keep an eye for seedling J82A-25 (Bauer-Coble), a single deep purple self with a yellow signal; and A6-3 (Ackerman). I think this is now *ROSE EMPRESS*. It is a lovely pink that is deeper around a yellow signal. Hirao's SH-23 is worth looking for. It is a deep red self.

I could go on and on, but it would only serve to persuade me to give up bearded irises and plant Japanese and Siberians everywhere. They grow well, just need more water in the spring, and you will be well rewarded—And, they are less work. It gives one an extra month to prepare the garden for visitors!

IRISES WINNING HIGH COMMENDATION 1989

TALL BEARDED

VOTES

- AITKEN, T.
5 84T19
- BLACK, P.
7 86103G
7 88109A
6 88109B
6 85254AA
5 88137C
- BLODGETT, A.
6 88-73
- BYERS, M.
6 C80-22
- CLAUSSEN, C.
6 CC-82-12
- FORT, L.
7 CLOUD BALLET (85-72-N)
- KEGERISE, EL
8 33-84
- MAGEE, T.
5 MY SHADOW
- MARCH, C.
5 M80-20-11
- MILLER, L.
5 12784B
- MOHR, H.
7 M-4-1
- OSBORNE, M.
9 6-12-5
- PIERCE, J.
8 84-64
- PROTZMANN, C.
5 84-28-12

RODERICK, E.

- 5 LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE
(8502)

SCHREINERS

- 5 V-35A
5 T1144-1

SIDES, G.

- 6 B38-D8

SLADE, G.

- 6 BY GEORGE
6 VOYAGER ONE (85-18-1)
5 84-30-1
5 83-8-1

STEVENS, S.

- 11 82-15-1

WILLOTT, A. & D.

- 6 86-88

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

DUNDERMAN, M.

- 5 HH-213

ROWLAN, H.

- 6 83-T-2

BORDER BEARDED

BURCH, J.

- 5 BIG VICTORY

DURRANCE, J.

- 6 D80-16A

WILLOTT, A. & D.

- 6 86-51

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

BLACK, P.

- 6 86432B

ENSMINGER, A.

- 7 86-1
6 186-29

NISWONGER, D.
6 13-83

SHOOP, R.
5 85-54-1

WILLOTT, A. & D.
7 84-155
7 88-135
6 88-110

SIBERIAN
VARNER, S.
14 4074
5 5055

**STANDARD DWARF
BEARDED**
BLACK, P.
6 86370A
6 86269B

BLODGETT, R.
5 82-23

JONES, B.
5 M362-1

SOBEK, R.
7 82S82

WILLOTT, A. & D.
11 84-34
5 88-2

**MINIATURE DWARF
BEARDED**
WILLOTT, A. & D.
7 84-56
6 88-61

JAPANESE
ACKERMAN, W.
6 A3-10-111
5 A6-3

AITKEN
6 83J-1-12

BAUER/COBLE
5 J82A-25

INNERST, S.
5 1532-2

JAPANESE IRIS AWARDS 1989 PAYNE AWARD

BLUEBERRY RIMMED (C. McEWEN) 24 VOTES
runnersup

WINE RUFFLES (W. ACKERMAN) 15 VOTES
ANYTUS (S. INNERST) 14 VOTES

HONORABLE MENTION

VOTES

27 LILAC PEAKS (A. VOGT)
20 PINK DIMITY (L. REID)
17 LASTING PLEASURE (W. ACKERMAN)
16 EVENING TIDE (W. ACKERMAN)
16 LACE RUFF (W. ACKERMAN)
16 SKY AND MIST (W. ACKERMAN)
13 LAVENDER KRINKLE (W. ACKERMAN)
11 IMMACULATE WHITE (C. McEWEN)
11 SPRINGTIME SNOW (L. REID)
10 CAPRICIAN CHIMES (MARX/D. ROGERS)
10 ORIENTAL ROYALTY (C. McEWEN)

The Pick of the Littles

Paul Black (Oklahoma)

The Spring of 1988 brought the best Standard Dwarf bloom to this garden that it has had in several years. That, in spite of a winter that played havoc with most of the other bearded classes.

BABY BLESSED is the only truly consistent rebloomer out of all the “re-blooming” SDB’s I grow. Its light, sunny yellow blooms are likely to pop up at any time during the Spring or Summer. BAY RUFFLES is the finest medium blue dwarf grown here. It is a strong grower with superbly formed flowers. CHUBBY CHEEKS has delicate violet plicata marks and band on white ground. The wide falls with fine ruffling make it very appealing. COURT MAGICIAN with its stark purple plicata marks and veins on white ground makes a showy clump as well as individual flower.

EYEBRIGHT, although older, is a stop-you-in-your-tracks gold with brown line veins the length of the falls. It is still distinctive with great clump appeal. FORTE makes beautiful smoldering clumps with standards white with heavy orchid wash and black cherry falls. Distinctive it is. A sunny spot for the garden is provided by Highborn Kinsman. It is a deep lemon with a gold halo on the falls. CHEERY DELIGHT has rich red-wine color with a deeper spot on the super wide falls. Just like a colored egg, HAPPY EASTER is a nice yellow bitone with purple beards. Makes a bright and pleasing clump.

JOYCE McBride remains a favorite. The cream ground has very different blue toned purple plicata markings. Flower form is excellent. One SDB I would grow just for the color is LOLLIPOP. Fortunately, it has good qualities far beyond the color which happens to be one of the truest reds of the bearded iris class. It has the depth and appearance of those striking candy apple red finishes. If I had only one white to grow, MARY’S LAMB would be it. It personifies everything an SDB should be. Dainty white blooms appear all on one plane as if a white carpet had been rolled out. Soft violet beards complete the picture.

Is there anyone who doesn’t know the fame of MICHAEL PAUL? It is only the most stunning black purple SDB I grow. A classic! I have never been able to describe adequately the shimmering quality of MIDNIGHT MADNESS. The medium purple has an opalescent finish that makes it shimmer with a great depth of color. PLUM WINE is a smooth dark plum red that is super vigorous and does rebloom. The additional plus is that the purple base of the foliage extends far enough up to be clearly visible in clump.

One of the prettiest and best formed pink SDB’s is SHEER CLASS. Flowers are rose pink with coral pink beards, and flower edges show a little lace. It tends to be a bit large for the class but great color and substance more than offset it in this difficult color class. SILK PETALS is a satiny white with smooth greenish overtones. The accent here is on form and the waxy substance.

SUNSTRIP is my favorite of the Weiler reblooming SDB’s. It is bright yellow with a wine red spot in the falls. It has great clump effect. The narrowness of

petal of TARHEEL ELF is overcome by the dark, smooth, smoldering red black color. Makes pretty clumps. TRULY is for that cool spot in your garden. The light, almost turquoise blue is very pleasing. One of the SDB's that no one passes by is TU TU TURQUOISE. Flowers are white tinted turquoise with a vivid turquoise blue spot, a color that is found mostly in some of the beardless species. For those that grew the extremely narrow Indian Jewel, these are the same colors only in a much wider, fuller formed flower.

One of the prerequisites for a variety being mentioned in this article is that it grow and bloom well and perform well in the garden. Any of these varieties should provide you with great clumps of garden color.

Japanese Irises or Hanashobu—Recommendations for the Garden

Diana Nicholls (Virginia)

Japanese irises or HANASHOBU are perhaps the most regal of all plants in the garden. Equally beautiful are the single or three petal flowers, the double or six petal flowers. A clump in bloom commands attention with its regal grace. The foliage sets off the flowers to perfection and then remains an attractive addition in the garden until frost. The Japanese iris is especially beautiful in the landscape throughout the entire season.

It is difficult to list just a few favorites as my list grows each year. The ones mentioned would certainly make a good starting place for any garden collection.

There are three white varieties that I particularly like. DRIVEN SNOW (Marx '60) a pure white double of good substance has been a favorite for quite some time. For the past two years, I have been observing LITTLE SNOWMAN (A. Vogt, R. '81) also a double white with excellent substance. It would be hard to select just one. This season I fell in love with ORIENTAL CLASSIC (McEwen '88) a white of what I consider the classic three petal form. It is exquisite and has pure class.

THE GREAT MOGUL (Payne '57) is another favorite and always admired by garden visitors. It is tall, large and definitely commands attention. This dark purple self also has the classic three petal form which is so elegant.

DANCING WAVES (Payne '62) grows tall and is beautiful both in the garden and on the show bench. Its double form in mulberry-purple with a dark violet halo and veins is finished by a very narrow white edging. DANCING WAVES makes a very nice clump as it is a vigorous grower and is an excellent choice for anyone's garden. It won the Payne Award in 1968.

Another Payne Award winner of more recent vintage, 1987, is FRECKLED GEISHA (Reid '81). She is indeed beautiful with her freckles and ruffles. This double white has a hairline edge of deep maroon and then is sprinkled with mauve and wine freckles. It is a vigorous grower with a long bloom season which makes it a good garden selection.

LASTING PLEASURE (Ackerman '85) is indeed a pleasure in the garden. It is a double dark purple-violet with lighter interveinal areas and near white margins. Dark purple-violet stylearms finish off this lovely flower. The special bonus with this iris is the flower can last up to five days in the garden.

ROSE QUEEN (rose form of *I. ensata*) is a small single rosy pink which is so very lovely in the garden. It is quite delicate in stature when compared to the giants that have been discussed thus far. She is very simple and unpretentious. This little beauty was runner up at our 1988 Society for Japanese Irises convention. In Washington, D.C., ROSE QUEEN was selected as Queen of the Show.

GEISHA GOWN (Maddocks '63) is another that is always a favorite of garden visitors. This double white, veined deep rose purple is quite striking in the garden. It is a very vigorous grower that makes instant clumps in the garden and many stalks for the show bench.

HOZAN (import) is double in form and has a unique opaque light lavender color. The particular color gives it great presence. I grow several hundred Japanese irises, and this one made a superb clump this year that absolutely stood out from the others.

HEGERA (Innerst '86) is a double white, heavily striped deep blue. The flower has very good substance that holds well in the garden. The light background gives this iris excellent carrying properties.

AGRIPPINELLA (Straw R. '79) is a double deep rose-pink on a white background with a solid rose-pink edge. What wonderful color this adds to the garden! It was runnerup for the Payne Award in 1985.

With so many very nice Japanese irises available, it is truly difficult to stop here. So many more are deserving of being listed. The above irises are only a starting point in making your selections. Any one of the above Japanese irises would make a nice addition to the garden.

Japanese Irises 1989

Shirley Paquet (South Carolina)

The Society for Japanese Iris Convention held in Manassas, Virginia, was a special treat. All the well laid plans were rewarded—even the weather cooperated after a shaky start. The gardens, for the most part, were in good bloom and it was a pleasure to view such a variety of new seedlings including ones from Japan. The iris show which greeted our arrival was impressive with more seedlings exhibited than I have ever seen. The other irises exhibited were well grown. It must have been difficult to pick ROSE QUEEN as Best in Show and Dr. William Ackerman's splendid ACK-commodate as Best Seedling.

Diana and Mike Nicholl's garden was visited first on tour where the irises were grown and displayed to near perfection. Even with more than 140 visitors milling around, there was still room to take pictures. Those I most admired were GALATEA, RASPBERRY RIMMED, GARNET ROYALTY, Hirao's SH 30 (white and lovely), Ichie's SAKURA-NO-SONO (white with pale pink petaloids), and LING (Jill Copeland) double white with cream styles, Acker-

man's A-10-111 was a mass of bloom in blue violet veins on white with lavender halo around the signal. His JOY PETERS was unusual in size like a large Siberian in pink. Aitken's dramatic 83-J-112, dark veining on a blue ground with border to match the veins, was in full bloom. Dienstback's EDGE OF FROST was interesting with its silver blue edging. Bauer-Coble's J8-2A-25, a dark velvety blue with two branches and 5-foot stems, was stunning. Of course, KALAMAZOO was gorgeous in every garden. Anna Mae Miller's 79-40-8 was attention grabbing with its soft blue double blooms. Lorena Reid's McKENZIE SUNSET (D577-5) and D 552-4 were different and appreciated. There was not enough time to fully enjoy this garden, but CAPANEUS (Innerst), FRECKLED GEISHA, and DANCING WAVES were admired as I hurried for the bus.

Carol and Andy Warner's garden had been visited before, so I knew where to go and lost no time. While the Japanese irises were not in full bloom, those that were were enjoyed. KALAMAZOO, again, very nice; DARK ENCHANTMENT (Ackerman) a dark, velvety dark violet; the Japanese imports were not in bloom.

After an unexpected tour through downtown Washington, we arrived at the Spoon garden underneath the old observatory on the Georgetown University campus. Here we saw Spoon seedlings in every spare space. It is an interesting garden with many different plants to enjoy. Outstanding, to me, was Adolph Vogt's LITTLE SNOWMAN, double white, small, with cream colored styles and petaloids. McEwen's JAPANESE PINWHEEL impressed everyone with its height and rich royal purple coloring. A white line bordered each petal.

The garden of Clarence and Suky Mahan was next. Their collection of hosta and other perennials occupied our attention as we waited to wend our way singly through the iris planted around a rock bordered pond with bridge and waterfall. There were extensive plantings of other irises in terraced beds. IPSUS, grown short but still showy, SHIHODEN, ROSE PRELUDE, OCEAN MIST, and WORLD'S DELIGHT were admired before we were out of time—the bane of all conventions.

The banquet was a fitting climax to an enjoyable convention. The results of the ballot to pick the favorite guest irises were announced, and Dr. McEwen's wonderful JAPANESE PINWHEEL won by an overwhelming vote majority. It is very different; a large wine red single with a white rim around the petals. Several plants of convention guest plants were auctioned with great response.

American Iris Society Conventions		
1990	Omaha, NE	May 20-24
1991	Washington, DC	May 18-22
1992	Atlanta, GA	April 28-May 2
1993	Fort Worth, TX	April 25-30
1994	Portland, OR	
1995	Hershey, PA	
1996	Sacramento, CA	

American Iris Society

1990 Judges

The letter preceding the judge's name designates the type of judge:
(A)—Apprentice; (G)—Fully Accredited; (M)—Master; and (E)—Emeritus.
An asterisk (*) denotes the region's RVP.

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 G Verona Wiekhorst
 G Clyde Wooten
 G Mrs. Clyde W. Wooten

REGION 21

G Mickey Anson
 G Ardeth J. Bailey
 G Dr. Robert L. Bledsoe
 G Mrs. Robert L. Bledsoe
 G Mrs. George Boardman
 A Marion Burleigh
 G Charles T. Claussen
 G Mrs. Charles T. Claussen
 M James L. Ennenga
 E Allan G. Ensminger
 G Mary Ferguson
 G Lane Foulk
 G Vincent Fox
 G Mrs. Vincent Fox
 M Mrs. Arnold Freudenburg
 G Anne M. Gaddie
 G Gene Gaddie
 M Mrs. John A. Graff
 M Hazel Grapes
 M Larry Harder
 M Mrs. A. J. Harvey
 G Dr. Charles Haynes
 G Mrs. Darrel Heier
 G Chartes C. Hemmer
 G Mrs. Charles C. Hemmer
 G Michael C. Hemmer
 G Patrick R. Hemmer
 M Lester Hildenbrandt
 M Mrs. Leon N. Hockett
 G Jim Hummel
 G Vera Hummel
 G Marjorie Jansen
 G Mrs. Robert H. Jensen
 G Dorothy M. Johnson
 A Alva Kailey
 G Eugene J. Kalkwarf

G Dorothy Kalkwarf
 G Richard Kohout
 G Carolyn D. Lingenfelter
 M Barbara Mapes
 G Harold Marshall
 G Mrs. Harold Marshall
 M Evangeline Martindale
 G Roger P. Mazur
 G Kay Nelson
 M Mrs. N. S. Pederson
 G Donald R. Peterson
 G Mrs. Donald R. Peterson
 E Richard T. Pettijohn
 A Calvin H. Reuter
 G Rev. Orval Roach
 M Mrs. C. V. Robertson
 G V. O. Sellers
 M Kempton Settle
 G Mrs. Kempton Settle
 M Fred E. Spahn
 G Tim Stanek
 A Barry Stoll
 G Lynn Stoll
 G Thomas Tingley
 G Mrs. Thomas Tingley
 G* Opal Wulf

REGION 22

M Wiley Abshire
 M M. B. Bartley
 M Mrs. Michael Birkholtz
 G Paul W. Black
 G Lavera Burkett
 M Richard C. Butler
 M Oren Campbell
 M C. A. Cromwell
 M Mrs. C. Wayne Drumm
 M Perry Dyer
 M Mrs. Dan Edelman
 M Mrs. Howard Estes
 G Buzz Evans
 G Pam Evans
 G Genevieve E. Followwill
 M W. G. Frass
 M Mrs. R. L. Gilbert
 M Mrs. James Gildea
 A Dorothy I. Gill
 G Paul W. Gossett
 M Una Hamilton
 M James Hawley
 M Mrs. H. R. Hensel
 M Mrs. Alva J. Hickerson
 E Mrs. Robert C. Howard
 G J. H. Jamieson
 G* Mrs. J. H. Jamieson
 M Dr. W. E. Jones
 M Mrs. Charles E. Kenney
 G Bea Leach
 M Virginia Mathews
 G Leonard J. Michel
 M Richard E. Morgan
 E Ronald Mullin
 M Hooker Nichols
 M Cleo Palmer

E Perry L. Parrish
 M Mrs. Harold G. Plato
 M Mrs. William M. Rhodes
 G Bruce Richards
 M Arthur E. Rowe
 M Henry C. Rowlan
 A James W. Russell
 M Joe Saia
 A Dale D. Satterwhite
 M Marthella Shoemake
 A Aline Smith
 A Fred Smith
 G Robertson V. Smith
 M Susie Smith
 M Mrs. Cyrus Stanley
 M L. D. Stayer
 M Mrs. L. D. Stayer
 G Philip Stonecipher
 G Mrs. Philip Stonecipher
 G Inez Tunon
 A Dana Wade
 G Alton C. Zimmerman
 G Mrs. Alton C. Zimmerman

REGION 23

M Mrs. Richard Bohannon
 G W. A. Brown
 M Mrs. Milton J. Clauser
 G Bill R. Coursey
 M Mrs. George L. Doolittle
 G Maj. Philip S. Doonan
 G Mrs. Philip S. Doonan
 M Mrs. Irby A. Downey
 G Dr. Cecil Eiffert
 M Mrs. Roger Figge
 G Wilma Freidline
 G* Doug Goodnight
 M Mrs. Earl Gould
 G David Ray Hooten
 G Donna Hooten
 M Margaret R. Johnson
 G Mrs. Douglas Latimer
 M Mrs. Bernard Lowenstein
 G Mrs. James A. Mahoney
 M J. E. McClintock
 M Mrs. J. E. McClintock
 G Cindy H. Myers
 G George A. Nickel
 M Mrs. Francis C. O'Kelly
 G Mrs. Therman C. Perkins
 G Mrs. L. E. Roberts
 G Audrey C. Roe
 M Howard Shockey
 G Mrs. Howard Shockey
 M Robert D. Steele
 G Mrs. Robert D. Steele
 G Floyd Stopani
 G Helen Stopani
 M Mrs. Walter C. White
 M Janice M. Wilson
 M Mrs. James R. Yocum

REGION 24

G John J. Adkins, Jr.

M Mrs. B. W. Branumn	M Mrs. J. W. Kuykendall, Jr.	G Margaret Lee
M Mrs. E. G. Brown	M Joe M. Langdon	M Dr. Gordon B. Loveridge
G Carol Burch	M Mrs. Joe M. Langdon	G Robert Raabe
G James G. Burch	G Mrs. Jack H. Lucas	
G Betty Burch	M Nan Elizabeth Miles	Belgium
M B. Howard Camp	E Mrs. E. P. Miles	G Koen Engelen
M Mrs. B. Howard Camp	G Bernice M. Miller	
G Margaret Connally	G Dr. William L. Mitchell	England
G Mrs. Thomas F. Craig	G Mrs. William L. Mitchell	E H. R. Jeffs
A Evelyn Davenport	G Walter Moores	G G. H. Preston
G Marjorie W. Deaton	G Edith Mitchell Nevels	G N. K. Scopes
M Mrs. Lester Fanning	G Mrs. William O. Oates	
M Dr. L. E. Fraser	M Donald R. Saxton	France
M Mrs. Floyd Garner	M Mrs. Donald R. Saxton	G Jean Cayeux
G Kirsten Gilliam	M* Sarah Scruggs	G Dr. Jean Segui
M T. A. Gilliam	M Herbert Sherrod	
M Dr. Marvin J. Hall	M Mrs. R. P. VanValkenburgh	West Germany
G Clara Henderson		E Helen Von Stein-Zeppelin
M Mrs. H. C. Hendricks		G Rainer Zeh
A Dennis Holmes	OVERSEAS	
M Mrs. Everett H. Hughes	Australia	
M Mrs. Hugh Johnston	G John O. Baldwin	Italy
G Mrs. Jack Kearney	M Mrs. N. E. H. Caldwell	M. Prof. Gian Luigi Sani
M A. I. Kuykendall	M Leslie J. Donnell	
G J. W. Kuykendall, Jr.	G Graeme Grosvenor	Japan
	M Alan W. Johnson	G Akira Horinaka

The Royal Horticultural Society

Wisley Trials—1989

On the recommendation of the Joint Iris Committee, the following awards have been made jointly by the Royal Horticultural Society and the British Iris Society to Intermediate Bearded Irises, after trial at Wisley.

As cultivars for general garden use:

First Class Certificate to: SARAH TAYLOR (J. D. Taylor)

Award of Merit to: SUNNY SMILE (N. K. Scopes)

Highly Commended: BATTLE SHOUT (Jack Boushay)

BOY WONDER (Joe Ghio)

BROWN LASSO (Buckles-Niswonger)

HAPPY SONG (Melba Hamblen)

JOYFUL (Joe Gatty)

LIGHT LAUGHTER (N. K. Scopes)

RARE EDITION (Joe Gatty)

Commended to: CANNINGTON SKIES (C. E. C. Bartlett)

QUEEN'S IVORY (Mrs. T. J. Naylor)

The following awards were made to irises in the Spuria category

Award of Merit to: MEDIA LUZ (Ben Hager)

PROTEGE (Ben Hager)

Highly Commended to: DAWN CANDLE (W. Ferguson)

NORTON SUNLIGHT (The National Trust)

The following awards were made to irises in the Sibirica category.

First Class Certificate to: ORVILLE FAY (Currier McEwen)

RUFFLED VELVET (Currier McEwen)

Highly Commended to: PURPELLER (T. Tamberg)

1990 SYMPOSIUM

1989	1990	Votes	Variety	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
1	1	883	BEVERLY SILLS	B. Hager	'79	M	36"	Pink
5	2	630	TITAN'S GLORY	Schreiners	'81	E-M	37"	Dark Violet
2	3	617	VANITY	B. Hager	'75	E-L	36"	Pink
4	4	535	STEPPING OUT	Schreiners	'64	M-L	38"	White, blue violet plicata
6	5	531	SONG OF NORWAY	W. Luihn	'79	M-L	38"	Powder blue, blue beards
8	6	501	MARY FRANCES	L. Gaultier	'73	M	38"	Blue-orchid
7	7	499	LACED COTTON	Schreiners	'80	M-L	34"	White
—	8	446	EDITH WOLFORD	B. Hager	'86	M	40"	Yellow/Violet
13	9	432	JESSE'S SONG	B. Williamson	'83	M	36"	White, violet plicata
3	10	431	VICTORIA FALLS	Schreiners	'77	E-L	40"	Blue, white fall spot
10	11	423	GOING MY WAY	J. Gibson	'72	M	37"	White, blue violet plicata
12	12	397	COPPER CLASSIC	E. Roderick	'75	L	30"	Burnt orange
11	13	390	SUPERSTITION	Schreiners	'77	M	36"	Maroon black
14	14	369	LADY FRIEND	J. Ghio	'81	VE-E	38"	Garnet red
9	15	366	MYSTIQUE	J. Ghio	'75	E-L	36"	Light blue/Blue purple
15	16	342	BRIDE'S HALO	H. Mohr	'73	E-L	36"	White, edged yellow
17	17	334	MULLED WINE	K. Keppel	'82	L	36"	Raspberry burgundy
16	18	307	JOYCE TERRY	T. Muhlestein	'74	M-L	38"	Yellow/White edged yellow
—	19	301	DUSKY CHALLENGER	Schreiners	'86	M-L	39"	Dark purple
19	20	295	RINGO	G. Shoop	'79	M	36"	White/Grape, edged white
23	21	282	KILT LILT	J. Gibson	'70	E-M	40"	Tan gold/Maroon, white plic.
18	22	269	BUBBLING OVER	J. Ghio	'82	E-L	36"	Blue-lilac
21	23	263	GAY PARASOL	Schreiners	'74	M	35"	Lavender/Rose violet
22	24	260	DAZZLING GOLD	D. C. Anderson	'81	M	29"	Yellow, veined red brown
39	25	243	SKY HOOKS	M. Osborne	'80	M	38"	Soft yellow, violet horns
33	26	240	EASTERTIME	Schreiners	'80	M-L	38"	Cream/White, edged gold

37	27	239	LORILEE	Schreiners	'81	M-L	37"	Rose orchid
32	28	237	CAMELOT ROSE	C. Tompkins	'65	M-L	30"	Lilac/Burgundy
25	29	233	LEMON MIST	N. Rudolph	'72	E	32"	Lemon yellow
27	29	233	QUEEN IN CALICO	J. Gibson	'80	M	34"	Apricot, red violet plicata
35	31	223	QUEEN OF HEARTS	O. Brown	'74	M	36"	Buff pink/Ivory, buff pink
—	32	221	BREAKERS	Schreiners	'86	M	37"	Blue
29	32	221	GRAND WALTZ	Schreiners	'70	M-L	35"	Lavender orchid
56	34	215	HINDENBURG	W. Maryott	'83	M	37"	Orange
20	34	215	RUFFLED BALLET	E. Roderick	'75	M-L	30"	Blue white/Medium blue
54	36	214	EVERYTHING PLUS	D. Niswonger	'84	M	34"	Blue white/white violet plic.
26	37	212	SON OF STAR	G. Plough	'69	E-L	36"	Cadmium orange
58	38	206	CHRISTMAS TIME	Schreiners	'65	M	41"	White, tangerine beard
30	38	206	CUP RACE	S. Buttrick	'63	M-L	36"	White
24	40	204	LEDA'S LOVER	B. Hager	'80	M	38"	White
31	40	204	SHIPSHAPE	S. Babson	'69	M	38"	Medium blue
44	42	202	BABBLING BROOK	K. Keppel	'66	M	38"	Light blue
28	43	200	CRANBERRY ICE	Schreiners	'76	M-L	36	Cranberry violet
48	44	199	MICHIGAN PRIDE	T. Berndt	'76	M	36"	Yellow/Maroon brown
45	45	198	LATIN LOVER	G. Shoop	'69	M	36"	Lavender pink/Grape wine
40	46	197	PINK TAFFETA	N. Rudolph	'68	E-M	31"	Pink
70	46	197	PIPING HOT	Schreiners	'81	E-M	35"	Peach/Peach, white center
42	48	191	RANCHO ROSE	J. Gibson	'75	M	38"	Salmon rose, magenta plic.
76	49	190	WINE AND ROSES	D. Hall	'63	M	35"	Rose pink/Wine purple
49	50	189	THEATRE	K. Keppel	'81	E-M	34"	White & violet bitone plic.
33	51	188	DEBBY RAIDON	Mrs. H. Kuntz	'65	M-L	36"	Yellow/White edged yellow
45	52	187	STUDY IN BLACK	G. Plough	'68	E-M	36"	Red black
38	53	185	NAVY STRUT	Schreiners	'74	E-M	35"	Dark violet blue
36	54	183	DUSKY DANCER	W. Luihn	'67	M	36"	Violet black
83	55	182	OLYMPIAD	J. Ghio	'84	E-L	38"	Pale blue, darker in heart
65	56	178	TIDE'S IN	Schreiners	'83	E-M	36"	Blue

47	57	176	WELL ENDOWED	J. Ghio	'79	E-M	40"	Gold
63	58	173	CHERRY SMOKE	D. Meek	'78	M-L	34"	Red black
43	59	172	PERSIAN BERRY	L. Gaultier	'77	M	35"	Mulberry lavender blend
—	60	171	ANNA BELLE BABSON	B. Hager	'85	M	36"	Pink
61	60	171	SPINNING WHEEL	D. C. Nearpass	'76	M	34"	Off white/Blue, white plic.
51	62	170	GOLD GALORE	Schreiners	'78	M-L	34"	Golden yellow
62	62	170	SAPPHIRE HILLS	Schreiners	'71	M	36"	Blue
54	64	166	CATALYST	K. Keppel	'80	M	35"	Yellow
66	64	166	LACY SNOWFLAKE	Schreiners	'77	M	38"	White
76	66	164	INFINITE GRACE	M. Hamblen	'82	M	36"	Warm white/Medium pink
74	67	161	TOMORROW'S CHILD	B. Blyth/K. Keppel	'84	M-L	36"	Pink/Red violet
67	68	154	BUFFY	O. Brown	'69	M	34"	Buff pink, ivory in falls
52	68	154	DREAM LOVER	E. Tams	'71	M-L	38"	Blue white/Blue violet
53	68	154	ENTOURAGE	J. Ghio	'77	E-L	40"	Dusty Rose
—	68	154	PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE	Schreiners	'84	M	37"	Medium Blue
59	72	153	DOVER BEACH	D. C. Nearpass	'72	E-L	42"	White/Light blue
85	73	151	CHICO MAID	W. Luihn	'85	M-L	38"	Pale blue, blue beard
60	74	150	BAYBERRY CANDLE	C. DeForest	'69	M	36"	Chartreuse/Gold olive green
40	74	150	NEW MOON	N. Sexton	'68	M	36"	Lemon yellow
63	76	149	TEMPLE GOLD	W. Luihn	'77	M-L	38"	Yellow
82	77	148	TUT'S GOLD	Schreiners	'79	M-L	37"	Golden yellow
74	78	146	HEATHER BLUSH	B. Hamner	'77	E-M	35"	Pink/Amethyst violet
96	79	145	GALA MADRID	L. Peterson	'68	M-L	30"	Butterscotch/Wine red
72	80	141	EXOTIC STAR	G. Plough	'75	E-M	36"	Dk. violet, white fall spot
67	80	141	FIVE STAR ADMIRAL	J. Marsh	'74	M	34"	Dark blue
92	82	140	BLUE SAPPHIRE	Schreiners	'53	E	40"	Light blue
—	82	140	EXTRAVAGANT	M. Hamblen	'83	M-L	36"	Red purple
87	82	140	GIGOLO	K. Keppel	'84	E	35"	Apricot, rosy violet
73	82	140	RON	M. Hamblen	'81	M	36"	Violet blue
78	86	138	ST. LOUIS BLUES	Schreiners	'79	L	35"	Med. blue, white fall spot

50	86	138	WINTER OLYMPICS	O. Brown	'63	E-M	37"	White
81	88	137	FRESNO CALYPSO	J. Weiler	'78	M-L	36"	Cadmium orange
57	88	137	PARADISE	J. Gatty	'80	M-L	33"	Peach pink
86	90	136	WEDDING CANDLES	Schreiners	'82	E-M	36"	Cream/Light yellow
100	91	135	CAPRICIOUS	M. Hamblen	'81	E-L	32"	Apricot, white, violet
—	92	134	IMMORTALITY	L. Zurbrigg	'84	M&Re	30"	White
100	93	133	CODICIL	S. Innerst	'85	M-L	32"	Lt. blue, near black beard
71	94	132	BROADWAY	K. Keppel	'81	E-M	34"	Gold/Ivory maroon plicata
96	95	131	BRANDY	J. McWhirter	'81	M	36"	Pinkish tan, gold blend
—	96	126	DESIGNER GOWN	J. Ghio	'85	E-M	34"	Pink
69	96	126	WHITE LIGHTNING	J. Gatty	'74	E	35"	White, yellow beard
79	98	125	ORANGE STAR	M. Hamblen	'81	M-L	30"	Cadmium orange
91	99	123	AMETHYST FLAME	Schreiners	'58	M	35"	Amethyst orchid
87	99	123	PLEATED GOWN	E. Roderick	'81	L	34"	Light to medium yellow
87	99	123	SHEER POETRY	D. Palmer	'79	M	36"	Buff, lavender, tan blend
—	99	123	SKATING PARTY	L. Gaultier	'83	M-L	34"	White
—	99	123	VISUAL ARTS	Schreiners	'82	M	38"	Rose, lavender

Runnersup: 121, Speculator: 120, All That Jazz, Aphrodisiac, Blue Luster, Swazi Princess:
118, Gold Trimmings: 117, Erleen Richeson, Ice Sculpture: 116, Maleguena:
114, Spectacular Bid.

New to the Symposium: Anna Belle Babson, Breakers, Designer Gown, Dusky Challenger,
Edith Wolford, Extravagant, Immortality, Pledge Allegiance,
Skating Party, and Visual Arts.

They replace the following: Blue Luster, Erleen Richeson, Gold Trimmings, Ice Sculpture,
Lovely Kay, Showcase, Speculator, and Swazi Princess.

Approximately 22.3% of the AIS members voted. Region 8 and region 12 had the highest percentage with 43% each.

Making Wise Selections

Margie Robinson (Kansas)

In order to make wise choices when selecting irises for our gardens, a buyer must know the qualifications of a good iris. We should get our information through reading and studying, but the best way to learn is by visiting many gardens and making comparisons.

Let me share a list of questions I ask myself when I visit a garden.

1. Is the color, form, and texture of the flower the best you have seen in that color class?
2. Does the color hold for three days without sun bleaching?
3. Does the whole clump appear beautiful from afar as well as up close?
4. Is the flower perfectly symmetrical, never lopsided or pinched in the falls?
5. Is the flower balanced, not top heavy nor the reverse?
6. Is the substance strong enough to support the shape of the flower through winds, rain, and sudden temperature change?
7. Are the flowers well spaced and in proportion to the size and height of the stalk?
8. Are the stalks strong and well-branched?
9. Do the flowers open in properly timed sequence so that they are never bunched?
10. Is the bud count high enough to assure a bloom period of over two weeks?
11. Will the stalks keep standing throughout the bloom period without staking?
12. Is the plant a vigorous increaser, producing many bloom stalks without blooming out?
13. Does the whole plant appear healthy with strong green leaves that are never skimpy or floppy?

Use your artistic eye to help you evaluate an iris plant in the garden. Also, use a measuring tape to record heights and flower sizes, to compare them with AIS requirements.

Do not allow the NAME of any hybridizer to influence your personal rating of an iris.

AIS MEASUREMENTS FOR BEARDED IRISES

<i>Type</i>	<i>Height of Stalk</i>	<i>Width of Flower</i>
Tall Bearded	over 27 inches	5 ½ to 7 ½ inches
Border Bearded	16 to 27 inches	4 to 5 inches
Intermediates	16 to 27 inches	3 ½ to 5 inches
Miniature Tall Bearded	16 to 25 inches	Not more than 6 inches combined height and width
Standard Dwarfs	8 to 15 inches	2 to 4 inches
Miniature Dwarfs	up to 8 inches	2 to 3 inches

Youth Views

Kathryn Long Gates

YOUTH MEMBER SPEAKS OUT

By Sue Copeland

There are several benefits to being a youth member in AIS. Youths usually, but not always, get a cheaper registration price for National Conventions. Sometimes they even get a cheaper registration price for Regional Conventions. The dues they have to pay, which is the only requirement for becoming an AIS member—youth or adult, are significantly cheaper than adult dues. Now, there is even an essay contest for youths being held every year. The winner receives a \$100 prize. Finally, youth members can also be hybridizers and become judges.

Despite all of the benefits, however, some youths feel that they are considered less important and less knowledgeable of irises and iris activities than adult members. There are several things that adult members can do, and have done, for youth members. They can realize that youth members do know about irises, something Region 6 members have always done for me. Region 6 members have also given me irises so I can have newer varieties which I otherwise could not afford. They have also accepted me as a judge, and I was asked to judge a show this year, my first year as a fully accredited judge.

My local club, the *Southwestern Michigan Iris Society*, has also supported me and encouraged youth. Back when my brothers were still youths, the club built a stand for a youth queen and court. They had complete youth sections in the show schedule. They also bought ribbons and medals for the youth section. AIS does not require clubs to have a youth section, but my club had one to encourage youth.

There are also things that youths can do for adult members. My brothers and I have helped set up and tear down shows. I have made educational exhibits and have clerked. Youths can even be the show chairman, which I will be next year. So, both youths and adults benefit from youth members in AIS. When I think of the advantages and disadvantages of being an AIS youth, I am a little unhappy that I only have one more year of being one.

Note: This article is reprinted from the October, 1989, issue of the Region 6 Newsletter. Thanks to Sue and the editors of the Newsletter for letting us share it. Region 6 Newsletter Editors noted: Sue Copeland is the daughter of noted hybridizer Jill Copeland and Jim Copeland. She is 17 years old, and this is her first year as an accredited judge. She judged the Grand Rapids show this year and enjoyed it very much. She has been interested in irises as long as she can remember and plans to go to Michigan State University to study genetics. Hybridizing irises is a recent interest, and she is trying for a fire engine red. She also won the \$100 AIS essay contest which was awarded at the national convention in Memphis this spring.

1990 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST DETAILS

AIS youth members may enter the Youth Essay Contest sponsored by the AIS Foundation. The topic for the 1990 contest is "My Interest in Irises—How It Happened—Where Will It Go?". Essays should be 500 words or less and must be submitted by February 15, 1990. Mail entries to Marilyn Holloway; 673 Acacia Avenue; Sacramento, CA 95815.

Report from the Tall Bearded Robin Chairman

Libby A. Cross (Virginia)

It is my privilege to be the current chairperson of the Tall Bearded section of our Round Robin Program. When I took over the job, I received route lists for thirteen robins. These lists were slightly outdated, and many names had been dropped or added. Directors had changed and a general state of chaos reigned.

By wearing out two typewriter ribbons and my postmaster, I've managed to get most of the robins on track again. However, there are a few directors who did not answer my pleas for updated route lists, and I'm not even sure I have all the robins listed. So, if you are a robin director and have not received an introductory letter from me, please write me at Route 4, Box 399-M, Covington, VA 24426 and let me have an update from you. If you have heard from me and haven't answered yet, please do it now.

Many of our robins are down to just a few members, so if you do not belong to a tall bearded robin and would like to join one, please send me your name, address, phone number, and a brief resume of your iris activities. I'll be happy to find a place aboard a flight for you.

If anyone has any problem with the flight they are in, they should let me know personally, and I'll see what can be done. If any of you are pining to become flight directors, let me know. I have a feeling I'm going to need some before long. Hopefully, once the present robins are all settled, we can add some new ones.

The regional robin program in Region 4 has had a very good robin program going for over a year now called Pinfeathers. It is for very new irisarians. Its members are about to graduate to Fledgling status in 1990, and a new group will begin the Pinfeathers round. I wonder if there is an interest on the national level in a robin of this type. It is sometimes overwhelming for a new member to jump into one of the established robins even though the members are willing to help newcomers. Sometimes, the newcomers don't even know what to ask. If anyone is interested in a Pinfeathers type robin, let me know and we can try to get such a robin started.

Perspectives of a New Member

Gwen Baggett (Tennessee)

Do you remember the first time you were allowed behind the steering wheel of a car? Remember that anticipatory, exciting eagerness to learn? Or how about your first contact with golf? Initially you knew little more than which end of the club to grasp, but as a new love, you couldn't get enough of it. And what about when you finally took that long postponed class on computers? The more you learned, the more you found you wanted to learn. You wanted to be with others who shared and understood those feelings. You couldn't practice or read enough. Then within only a few months, as your expertise increased, you easily forgot what it felt like to have been such a novice.

As veteran irisarians, most AIS members have countless varieties on their favorite iris species, collectively hundreds of years experience in the garden, and enough knowledge and advice to fill a small library. However, there is something special that a new member has which will never again be available to the veteran. That delicious pleasure is the virgin joy, overflowing enthusiasm, and hungry ignorance of one who has just crested a mountain to discover a "new" world of thousands of different irises, when she thought that irises "only came in purple." That is the perspective from which I write in hopes of aiding all of us in making our Society more meaningful to new members as it grows in numbers.

Often the infant irisarians second contact with irises (Didn't everyone's mother or grandmother have "flags"?) is through either a friend or a well-publicized show. A friend will ideally answer most of a prospective member's questions, but a show committee may often be so overwhelmed with the mechanics of putting on the show that the very target of the advertising is overlooked at the show itself. There is never a doubt that the glorious flowers speak for themselves, but how about prominent posters and/or pamphlets to introduce the visitor to more than just the visual and olfactory pleasures? (I believe that pamphlets too often are simply carried through the show to be read after the fact.) One focus could be on the show itself. What are the awards? What is the "Queen's Table"? Explain briefly the different divisions. What are some of the criteria for judging? What's different about those in boxes? Even more important information to provide would be general information and definitions about irises themselves. How many varieties ARE there? (I left my first show naively thinking that there must be at least two or three hundred!) How many species? What's the standard? Haft? What do TB, IB, etc. mean? What does the name and date in parentheses after the variety mean?

Once the visitor is made more comfortable by this information and his interest is piqued, enrolling him is much easier. But don't let him leave empty-handed. Whenever possible, collect as many old AIS Bulletins (no matter how old), current or prior years' catalogs, or any other literature that members are willing to part with, and share them eagerly. (I searched fruitlessly for weeks at

libraries and bookstores seeking ANYTHING in more depth than just one page in a general gardening book!) Consider giving him a 10% discount on his rhizome order or a free plant. Understand that he may be JUST getting started and each plant is an absolute treasure! Don't overlook providing him with adequate and clear instructions for cultivation NOW. Waiting until he picks up his rhizomes may be too late.

After the show, and after you've recuperated, take advantage of your new friend's enthusiasm and welcome her as you would any newcomer to your neighborhood, church or workplace. Don't leave all the responsibility to the local president. (After I joined I could hardly wait for correspondence from and about the local chapter. The first contact I had was a postal card received many weeks later asking me to donate rhizomes!!) Have a member who lives nearby visit the new signee. You might be pleasantly amazed at how receptive she is to your advice on garden location, which varieties to choose, techniques, and learning from your experiences. If she's willing, invite her to visit or work with you in yours or others' gardens. There's a wealth of information to be gleaned by hands-on experience even after the bloom season has ended. And don't forget to invite her to any other rhizome sales in your area. Be sure that she is aware of the great sources for plants and provide some addresses and/or catalogs while it is still early enough to order.

My own education and enthusiasm have been enhanced by both Mr. Charles Lack, Publication Sales Director for the AIS, and Mr. Chet Tompkins, successful hybridizer of Fleur de Lis Gardens. Mr. Lack was conscientious enough to telephone me in order to clarify an order, and the ensuing conversation was very helpful and especially encouraging. In more than one call to Mr. Tompkins, I have found him to be an absolutely priceless source of knowledge and inspiration! For tips and tidbits, both my mother and I have found Mrs. Jean Stallcop, a judge and an officer of the Indiana Iris and Daylily Society, to be a great resource person—knowledgeable, available, and eager to help.

But the real foundation of my schooling has been Mrs. Inez Turns, a member of both the Southern Kentucky Iris Society and the Twin States Iris Society in Region 7. After "discovering" her through a local farm supply store, I have found her to be a most gracious and generous lady. She has been readily available to answer my absolutely endless questions on every aspect of irising from providing descriptions to advice on diseases. She has made her gardens wonderfully available to me, provided catalogs and reading material, and has truly been the key to feeding and watering my interest in irises.

As I grow I am looking forward to meeting more experienced growers and hope we can each learn to nurture our new members even as we nurture our flowers.

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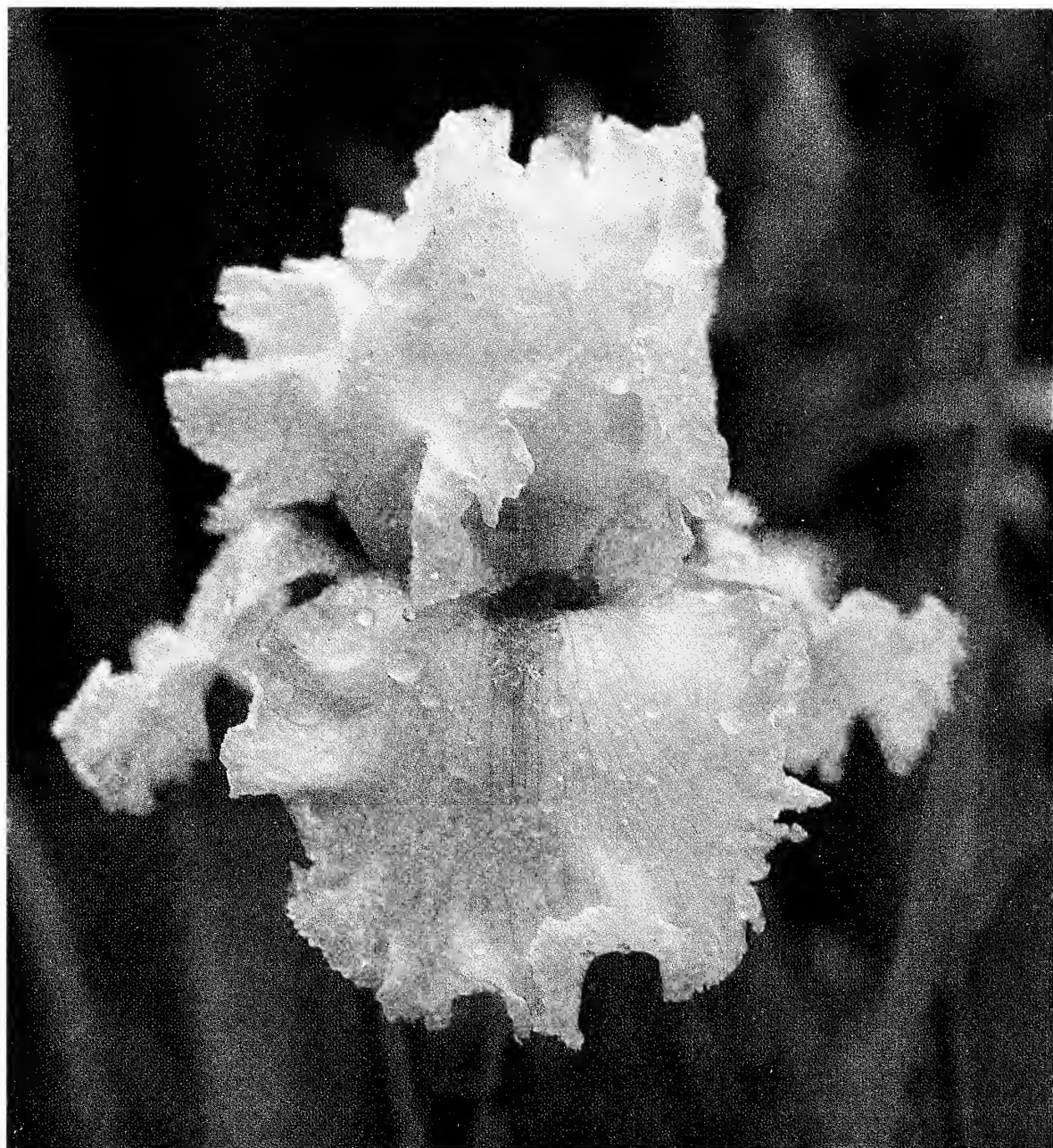
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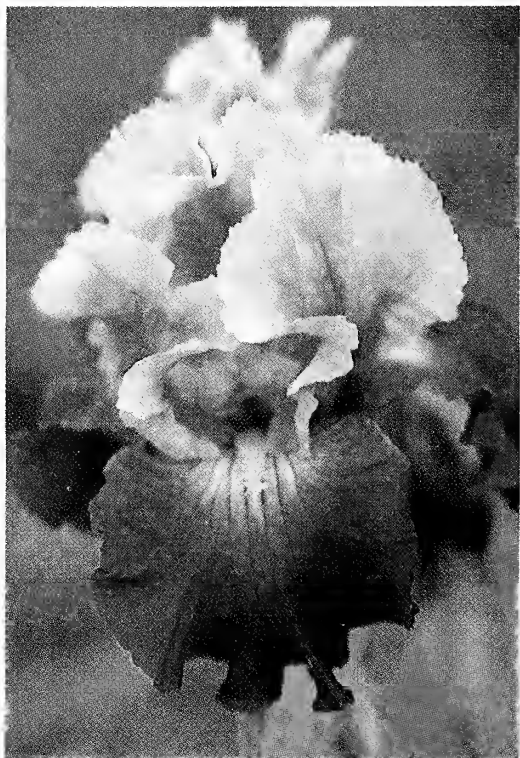
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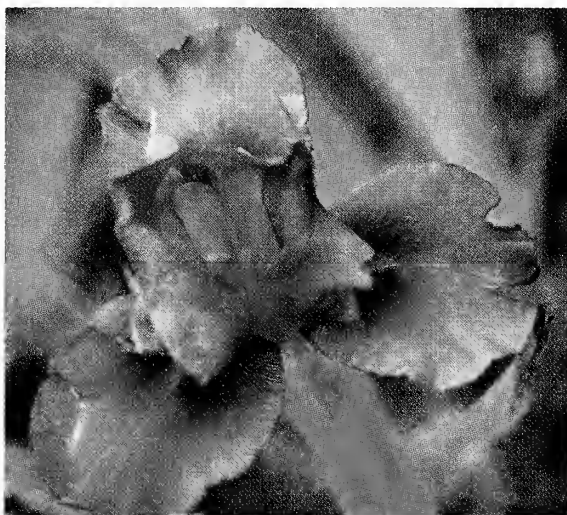
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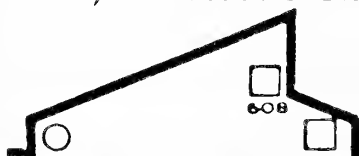
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Collecting Wild Iris in China

Dr. James W. Waddick (Missouri)

It is a rare coincidence for history, current events and *Iris* to collide, but such is the nature of real life. In the month of May 1989, I had the opportunity to collect native *Iris* species in China and have past history mix with today's events.

HISTORY: The story begins in the spring of 1988 when I met over coffee in the home of Robert Pries of St. Louis with my fellow Kansas Citian Jim Murrain. All of us are members of the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA) a section of the AIS. As is the case with species growers, we all sought plants not in cultivation. I mostly moaned about the lack of Chinese irises especially since China had opened its doors in recent years and I had been corresponding and trading with the Shanghai Botanical Garden for the previous four years.

During the past century and a half wealthy plant lovers had hired the services of plant explorer/collectors to spend a year or two in China and send back seeds, plants and herbarium materials. Stories abound of brave English and American plant collectors of the last century who introduced some wonderful garden treasures from China. Sponsors gave money to cover all costs and the resulting plants were divided among sponsors. Sitting around the comfortable dining table in St. Louis, we naively surmised it would be 'easy' today to have a small group of sponsors, make a quick targeted trip to China to collect some new iris species, carry live plants back for distribution to sponsors and eventually establish these new plants in cultivation. My experience and contacts with various Chinese sources led me to volunteer to determine the feasibility of such a trip.

Within weeks, I was the 'leader' of this trip and a brief announcement in the SIGNA newsletter set off an avalanche of interest in the new "China Iris Project." A swirl of letters back and forth from Kansas City to various parts of China eventually clarified the muddy mess and brought about some realizations: I could make the trip with the help of the Shanghai Botanical Garden as my official host in China; I could export as many *Iris* as I could collect; I could contact and convince several officials in field locations to be my local hosts in places I felt would produce some new *Iris* species and this could be done during the month of May, 1989. As all these details began to settle in, I collected sponsorships from twenty organizations and individuals. All but four were from various locations in the United States, three of the others were from Ontario, Canada and one sponsor in France. Special thanks should go to the Greater Kansas City Iris Society and the St. Louis Iris Society who were major contributors and to many individuals who supported the effort from early on: Elaine Hulbert, Bob Pries, Phoebe Copley, Bruce Richardson and Alan McMurtrie.

I was to depart Kansas City the morning of April 30, 1989 and spend the next 23 hours in transit to arrive the evening of May 1 in Shanghai. I was traveling on my own with an English speaking assistant from the Shanghai

Botanical Garden to accompany me on my excursions. I had made agreements for local support in Eastern China (Shanghai and Hangzhou), NE China (Manchuria) and SW China (Sichuan). These areas were selected to produce what might be the best variety of iris species.

CURRENT EVENTS: A few days before I was due to leave reports started to filter into the U.S. about student demonstrations in Tienanmen Square in Beijing. Smaller demonstrations were noted in a few other cities, but nothing was expected to come of it all and I was not going to Beijing in any case. I had specifically rescheduled my travel to avoid Beijing connections. The trip was due to be long and busy, but uneventful. One travelling companion on the flight from San Francisco to Shanghai was a student returning home to Beijing from the U.S. and hoping to join his friends demonstrating in the Square. I wished him success when I departed at Shanghai.

I was met at the Shanghai International Airport by the Vice Director of the Shanghai Botanical Garden, Ms. Chen Nian-Nian, and my assigned travelling assistant, Mr. Lu Bo. I was assisted to my hotel and collapsed for the night. I had scheduled no events for the first day in order to overcome jet lag. A low key tour of the Shanghai Botanical Gardens and a welcoming lunch were more than enough activities. The next morning we boarded the train for a four hour ride to Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province to the southwest. There we were met by my contact and correspondent from the Hangzhou Botanical Garden, Mr. Xing Yu-Zhen, and the assistant Director, Mr. Lin Yun Foo.

IRIS AND IRISARIANS: HANGZHOU: Hangzhou is the capital of Zhejiang Province in Eastern China. It is worth repeating the old Chinese saying "Above there is heaven, on earth there is Hangzhou". It is an ancient city thronged with Chinese tourists for centuries and now being discovered by foreigners. The city surrounds a nearly circular "West Lake" which is dotted with pagodas, pavillions and parks. A truly beautiful city in morning mist, by moonlight or during a daytime stroll. The Hangzhou Botanical Garden is one of the best known in China and covers about 250 acres. Like most Chinese Botanical Gardens it is composed of smaller specialty gardens such as its most famous "Herb Garden". Here Chinese herbal plants are grown and displayed very neatly.

Madame Lin Jin Zhen is the Director of the Herb Garden which houses numerous *Iris* species. Although in poor health, Mdm. Lin toured us through the garden and pointed out *Iris* of interest I was drawn immediately to *Iris speculatrix* as this is a member of the Evansia group of *Iris*, of special interest to me. Numerous flower spikes were just coming on, but no flowers were showing. This *Iris* had until recently been thought to be an exclusively tropical *Iris* found only in Hong Kong and surrounding areas. Now it is known to be wide spread in Eastern China including areas subject to quite a bit of freezing weather. Its hardiness and growth habits are still poorly known. It seems to grow somewhat like the American woodland native, *Iris cristata*, with rhizomes near the surface, but the leaves are much thinner and narrower. On my last morning in Hangzhou one flower was starting to open and we forced it to open all the way for picture taking. Later this same flower was brought up to Prof. Zhao Yu-Tang in Jilin Province who confirmed its identification.

Next to this rare iris was the even rarer *Iris proantha valida*, another Evansia iris long known in the literature incorrectly as *I. Pseudorossii* because of its supposed similarity to *Iris rossii*, an *Iris* belonging to the chinensis series. Out of bloom as this plant was, it could easily be mistaken as a weedy grass or sedge. The thin pleated grassy leaves stuck up loosely about a foot or so in a loose open 'sod'. When plants were dug, the peculiar thin and wiry subterranean rhizome could be seen and added to the strangeness of this *Iris*. This iris is said to have the smallest of all iris flowers. Unfortunately no flowers were seen.

The oddest and rarest Iris in Hangzhou was *Iris anguifuga*. Long known to Chinese herbal medicine, it was only described to science in 1980 by Prof. Zhao Yu-Tang the widely recognized master of Chinese irises. In describing this *Iris* he placed it as the sole member of a new section, Ophioiris. Outwardly the plants looked somewhat like past bloom *Narcissus*, and the comparison is apt as these plants were just about to go dormant. This *Iris* goes totally dormant and leafless in summer. The odd rhizome was thick, stubby and somewhat woody like an old dried up bearded iris rhizome, but underground about an inch below the surface. In Chinese herbal medicine it is believed that this iris keeps snakes away (as the species name suggests) and indeed when the iris is actively growing in fall and winter, snakes go into hibernation. When summer comes the *Iris* goes dormant and snakes emerge from winter hiding. It is also believed that a preparation from the rhizome can be used to medicate in case of snake bite.

Due to the generosity of Mdm. Lin and the herb garden supervisor Ms. Xie Gui-Shan, I was given a small supply of all of these irises for distribution to my sponsors. Also growing in larger displays were the relatively common *I. tectorum* in the typical blue form and the uncommon *alba* form, the common *I. japonica pallescens* with white flowers and the less common blue form; *I. sanguinea*, *I. ensata* and *I. pseudacorus*. While packing and preparing *Iris* in the garden a sudden "herd of horticulturists" descended on us led by George Waters, Editor of "Pacific Horticulture" and chief photographer for the AIS annual Calendar. We exchanged cards and *Iris* observations. He sent me a photo later of *Iris proantha* which was not in bloom at the garden.

Before leaving the grounds of the Botanical Garden, I spent about an hour giving Mdm. Lin a short lesson on iris hybridization. She has never been able to cross irises and was unable to self-pollinate certain species to encourage seed production. Since she spoke no English and my Chinese was limited to a few formalities, Mr. Lu translated the intricacies of *Iris* sex life as we huddled over the blooming *Iris tectorum* in the herb garden. A small crowd soon gathered and seemed amazed at my manipulations and flower probings. Eventually we covered the basics as cross questioning gave Mdm. Lin new understanding about the possibilities for crosses in her collections. Perhaps we may have the beginnings of a whole new range of Chinese hybrids in Hangzhou.

Plants were packed for the return to Shanghai and 'storage' in the gardens while I prepared for stage two in NE China. I was to leave the next day for Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province. This part of China was set up during

the Japanese occupation from 1933-1945 as the 'Puppet Kingdom' under the deposed last Emperor of China, Pu Yi.

MANCHURIA: We were met at the airport by Prof. Zhao Yu-Tang and his student Mr. Xie Hang. Prof. Zhao is the Iris "master" of China. He wrote the section "Iridaceae" for the Official Flora of China and has personally described six new species of Chinese *Iris* and various new forms and varieties. He is Professor of Botany at Northeast Normal University in Changchun, Director of the Botanical Society of China and an Honorary member of the British Iris Society. Mr. Xie Hang is Zhao's 'prize' graduate student and potential successor. Xie's research has centered on pollen morphology and plant physiology using modern techniques of cell biology and microbiology. He is also an avid plant collector. Both Zhao and Xie were open, friendly and eager to exchange information on *Iris*.

Our taxi drive to the center of town was filled with talk of iris, travel, mutual friends and my iris targets in Jilin Province. As we neared the University, Zhao called the taxi over to the bicycle lane of a broad boulevard where we suddenly parked and all jumped out. Leading me to the narrow parkway between traffic lanes for cars and bicycles, Zhao pointed out the 'dots' of blooming *Iris uniflora* right in the city. Apparently the 'sod' in these parkways was simply cut from the country side and included wild iris which have survived and grown in these unusual conditions.

Early the next morning we hopped on a bus for Tu Men Ling a small village about 65 km NE of Changchun. Travelling through dry grassland and fields of winter wheat we reached a few low hills in about two hours. Hiking through the hills above the walled town we soon encountered a ground cover of *Iris uniflora*. This is a small iris rare in western gardens and related to the also uncommon *Iris ruthenica*. As the name suggests, it has a single small deep purple flower held well above the short narrow foliage. The falls are heavily veined in white and clumps will produce many stems. This is an ideal rock garden subject. During the day we came across only two plants with color variants. One was a clear pale lilac and the other a brighter red-purple. The plants grew both in the open among grass and rocks and in open forest shade, but clearly grew better and bloomed in full sun and exposure. In these same open hillsides we soon came across the delightfully cheery yellow *Iris mandshurica*. This is a bearded species only a few inches tall with bright clear yellow flowers. It is usually placed in the section of the genus known as *Pseudoregelia* as it lacks a rhizome; instead it has thick fleshy roots and forms a dense closely set clump of crowns with leaves a few inches in height. This iris was just beginning to bloom and it would be nearly impossible to locate out of bloom in the grass and other sparse vegetation.

Walking through the dry hills above the village, we went through planted pine and larch forests. In the poorest trailside areas we found a solitary plant of *Iris lactea chinensis*. This is a common plant in China and in cultivation. Prof. Zhao claims it is the only Chinese species that is spreading its range because it is able to grow where other plants cannot. Increased growth of *Iris*

lactea is an indication of deterioration in grazing lands because this plant is not eaten by sheep and other herds in the area. This plant was barely emerged from dormancy and no sign of flowers were seen.

The next morning we boarded a steam locomotive for an all day trip to Bai Cheng in extreme northwest Jilin Province. The landscape changed from urban and agricultural to increasingly arid and devoid of trees. Only hybrid poplars planted as windbreaks broke the monotony of the flat plains, dry salt pans and slightly rolling treeless hills. On our late arrival in Bai Cheng we were met by a former student of Prof. Zhao for a quick dinner and to bed. After breakfast we boarded four wheel drive vehicles and obtained further permits and acquired more "supervisors" to look for *Iris tenuifolia*. There were eight of us driving around the southern edges of Bai Cheng district and through very primitive villages. After hours of driving and stopping and searching in likely places, we did eventually find this *Iris*. This species is the name bearer for the section of the genus known as "Tenuifoliae." The leaves are very thin and round, about the same dimensions as the lead in a pencil. Its thin spidery bloom appears early after the leaves emerge from dormancy. Later the leaves can get to a foot or eighteen inches in length. It would be almost impossible to find out of bloom as it was nearly so in full bloom.

The plants were growing in extremely compact loess soils deposited by wind and glaciers. Digging was slow and difficult. The crown of this species is about 3 ½ inches below the surface and the thin woody roots are very brittle. It was hard work to find and dig these plants. Because of the peculiar nature of the growth of this iris, it is probably a very difficult plant to establish in cultivation, and it will always be of curiosity rather than garden value because of its odd leaves and flowers.

The next morning we drove further north west and crossed into Inner Mongolia. We stopped along a nearly deserted roadside and hiked through the forty foot barrier of hybrid poplars onto a low barren hillside. Eventually our eyes adjusted to the seeming lack of any plant life and we found many plants of newly emerging *Pardanthopsis* (formerly *Iris*) *dichotoma* coming up densely underfoot. Since they were all in the top inch of hard packed soil it was relatively easier to dig here. I was quite impressed at this harsh habitat because I had been led to believe that this species was delicate, short lived and somewhat touchy in cultivation. Obviously it lives in an environment that is very dry, cold and windy in winter and hot and dry in summer. I suspect in late summer when these low hills are flushed with waving stalks of pale lilac *Pardanthopsis* in full bloom it must be a wonderful sight.

We jumped back into our four wheel drive vehicles for a few more hours of driving to Wulanhot (Red City) Inner Mongolia in time to meet more officials and get more clearances. We settled down to lunch with ten people, then added more of Zhao's ex-students and guides to make a party of sixteen people in four vehicles. We were filled with permits, experts and supervisors needed to collect irises within the walled grounds of the Temple of Chen Ji Si Han, the Mongolian national hero we know as Genghis Khan. Immediately, we

saw clumps of blooming *Iris ventricosa*. This is a curious but attractive Iris related to *I. tenuifolia*, but it has greatly inflated bracts that add to its odd beauty. Unfortunately, the ground here was harder than any other and we soon broke one of the two trowels available. "Time-out" was called and one of the group was sent back for a pick. This allowed us time to search.

We found more *Iris ventricosa* and eventually we 'picked' these out. We also found slowly and one by one, *Iris tigridia*. This is another small bearded iris in the pseudoregelia group. It has flowers of medium violet striped and spotted with darker purple. It was almost done blooming so very hard to locate in the dry grass. Plants were scattered among the scrubby junipers and hazels planted for erosion control on a sloping hillside behind the Temple. Like *Iris mandshurica* it lacks a rhizome and has fleshy roots. It forms small clumps of thin grassy grey-green leaves. All the plants we collected were loaded with seed pods.

We collected late and returned to Wulanhote proper to drop off our guides and supervisors and rush back to accommodations in Bai Cheng where we arrived even later. By getting up extra early the next day, we managed to make the first train back to Chang Chun. This allowed us a few hours stop over on the way. We had a light breakfast en route and came to the city of Giang Guo in mid-morning where yet more of Prof. Zhao's ex-students met us and drove us across the river to Fu Yu City. Both Fu Yu and Giang Guo are closed to all foreigners, so I had to pass further inspections and clearances to go on to Shan Men, a small village 20 km. further north where we visited the Farmer's Professional College and collected *Iris flavissima*.

Iris flavissima is another bearded iris in the section known as Psammiris or sand iris, and it was growing in areas of sand in small plots between test fields at the college. It looked nearly identical at first glance to *Iris manschurica*—bright clear yellow, bearded and sassy in the morning sun, but it had a distinct if odd rhizome. The rhizome was about ½ inch in diameter and fairly clean as it went from fan to fan. The rhizome was totally underground. These plants were just starting to bloom, and we only found a few showing their bright flowers. A few quick observations photos and collecting and we had to retrace our steps in order to get back to catch the late train to Chang Chun. We made the late train, had dinner on the train and arrived late as usual in Changchun.

In between times I had a chance to inspect and review the programs of Prof. Zhao. He has four graduate students working on Iris. Mr. Xie, whom I have mentioned accompanied us on our travels where I grew to appreciate his collector's ability and stamina in seeking out plants. Three other students spoke no English, but were clearly pleased to meet me and share their investigations in karyotypes, more pollen studies and physiology. Prof. Zhao is planning on developing a display and research iris garden this year on the University grounds and already has an impressive Iris herbarium. He has never had the opportunity or funding to travel widely in China nor can the University support research travel for his students. We discussed how American Irisarians might help him to encourage study of Chinese Iris in the future. He is also very eager to come to the U.S. to see native Iris, meet American Iris

growers and see advances in hybridization here. I have begun to 'test' the waters for his travel to the U.S. for the next AIS meetings with a chance to see Iris as he travels from California to mid-America. I'd appreciate any suggestions or help in raising funds to allow Prof. Zhao to come to the U.S.

From Jilin Province in extreme north-east China, Lu and I flew back to Shanghai (late as always) dropped off newly collected Iris plants for safe keeping at the Shanghai Botanical Gardens and retreated to our rooms for a short night's rest. Early the next morning we boarded the plane for Chengdu in Sichuan Province about 1500 miles away.

SICHUAN: Sichuan Province has the largest population of any province in China. Chengdu, its capital, is located in the large Sichuan Basin. This area is almost totally surrounded by mountains, yet the unique characteristics of the basin made it a refuge for many ancient plant and animal species during repeated periods of glaciation. The Sichuan Basin is the home and refuge for such rarities as the Dawn Redwood, the Giant Panda, the Ginkgo and many other unusual plants and animals. It is also one of the main centers for irises in China.

My hosts there were Prof. Yen Chi and his wife Prof. Yang Jun Liang. Both are full professors at Sichuan Agricultural University. Prof. Yen is also the head of the world famous Tritaceae Research Institute located in Guan Xian, an hour's drive northwest of Chengdu. This Institute is known for its sophisticated modern research techniques on native and cultivated wheat and its varieties. The Institute cooperates with other wheat researchers all over the world including the University of Missouri where Prof. Yen's son, Yen Yang, is enrolled in a doctoral program studying to follow in his famous father's footsteps. Prof. Yang is a full time staff member in the main campus at Ya-an about 170 km southwest of Chengdu. She is an expert on regional botany, especially grasses, and has just completed a section in the Flora of Sichuan on native grasses. They were both cordial, gracious, friendly and helpful in making my entire stay there smooth running and productive.

We flew from Shanghai to Sichuan and arrived too late to drive beyond the city. The next morning we drove on to Guan Xian and visited our hosts at the Tritaceae Research Institute. We settled down at a local Guest House and rose early for our first adventure the next morning. Driving a Nissan four wheel drive truck we headed north along the Men River and then veered off toward Woolong. We kept within sight of a branch of the Upper Men River and started driving uphill. We soon were in mixed forests in a steep valley. The sides of the valley were thick with bamboos and dotted with blooming shrubs of wild *Kerria japonica* and *Rhododendron*. We passed many small clumps of *Iris japonica pallescens* and *Iris tectorum* in spots along the roadside. After nearly three hours we drove past the famous Giant Panda Research Laboratory in Woolong. A few pandas rested in outdoor enclosures. We drove a short distance on and stopped to picnic next to the raging waters of the mountain stream.

Prof. Zhao in Chang Chun had told me that the rare *Iris narcissiflora* had recently been collected near Woolong and this was constantly on my mind as

we looked for blooming iris. I must divert and tell you about this particular iris. It was only collected once in 1925 in W. Sichuan. The very few herbarium specimens consist only of flowering stems, no leaves, rhizomes or other vegetative parts exist in any museum in the world. The flowers are small, flat and presumably bright clear yellow. Iris experts consider it a very distinct and interesting species, but too little exists to place it firmly in any section of the genus. It was my particular aim in collecting wild iris in Sichuan, and I had requested my hosts to help me in finding this species if at all possible. Today's trip was the first attempt to look for this iris, and it was unsuccessful.

On the sides of the stream above Woolong, we found many interesting liliaceous plants especially *Polygonatum* species. Driving back down the mountain valley, we stopped and photographed and collected plants of *Iris japonica pallescens* and *Iris tectorum*. The former was the common white flowered form which is not available in cultivation in the West. Apparently the commonly cultivated blue flowered form is a Japanese cultvar or selection that has been introduced into the U.S.. I did later see a few blue flowered *I. japonica*, but it is far less common in this area. Perhaps this plant is a Chinese native introduced to Japan in the blue flowered form. *Iris tectorum* which goes under the common name of Japanese Roof Iris may, in all probability, be another Chinese native introduced to Japan in pre-historical times. In China the common names simply means "iris." It is seen everywhere in cities and towns and wild along the roadsides. I saw a beautiful second floor window box full of blooming 'iris' in the small town of Wen Chuan, Sichuan and streetside ornamental plantings on the approach to the Shanghai International Airport. I made special care to collect this plant in as near as possible a 'wild' situation as I could, and I collected individual fans from various plants. My host Prof. Yen says it is remarkably uniform in color, but some plants are slightly bluer and less violet. I saw the white flowered form only in cultivation in a couple of botanical gardens.

The next morning Prof. Yang led the way as Prof. Yen was hosting an official inspection of the Research Institute by various provincial officials. Again we headed north, but this trip kept to the edge of the Men River. This is one of the four large rivers in Sichuan. The name Sichuan means 'four rivers' and all are large and fast moving. We went north heading for Song Pan, another known collecting site of *Iris narcissiflora*. We drove through small towns of Wen Chuan and Mao Wan in a very dry river valley. The Ming Shan Mountains visible north of us produce a condition known as 'fohn' or rain shadow resulting in a hot dry climate relative to other nearby valleys. The mountains were all made of loose crumbly rocks and gravel and we skirted numerous old landslides. Roads in this part of Sichuan are almost entirely hand made as well as maintained and repaired by hand. This means repairs are slow and often haphazard. Frequent land and mud slides are loosely flattened and progress must be slow and exact. Along the nearly 200 km route we lost and retrieved all the hub caps, various interior panels of the car were shaken loose (eventually deposited for safe keeping in the back window well) and we had a flat tire in the middle of nowhere. Flat tire and all we kept heading for Song Pan.



LEFT: The foremost iris authority in China is Zhao Yu-tang, a Professor of Botany at Northeast Normal University. Here he has found *Iris lactea chinensis* in Jilin Province.

RIGHT: The bright yellow *Iris manshurica* is a little known pseudoregelia iris. The dwarf plants bloom in early May and dot the hills of Jilin Province. On the left is a new leaf of *Cacalia aconitifolia*.



LEFT: One of the oddest of all iris is *Iris tenuifolia*. It dies down below ground level in the harsh environment of Inner Mongolia. The meristem is four to five inches underground.

RIGHT: *Iris ventricosa* is a near relative of *I. tenuifolia*, but has greatly enlarged and inflated bracts. These were photographed on the grounds of the Temple of Genghis Khan in Red City, Inner Mongolia.



LEFT: One of the rarest color patterns in any bearded iris is found in *Iris tigridia*, a rarely cultivated pseudoregelia shown here in Inner Mongolia.
 RIGHT: White is the common color in *Iris japonica pallescens*, a widely distributed iris in milder parts of wet, central, and southern China. Here shown in central Sichuan.



LEFT: The most common iris in China is known there simply as "iris." It is *Iris tectorum* pictured here near Woolong, Sichuan, the site of the famous Giant Panda Research Station.
 RIGHT: One of the mysteries of iris in China concerns *iris contusa*, a tall tender crested species. It can grow to almost five feet in height. In the wild and in cultivation, it is usually sterile and bears no seed.

A final enormous mudslide stopped us in our tracks. We simply could not traverse this pile in the road although we saw a couple of tractors and large trucks climb across the mess. While we stopped at the barrier I climbed up above the mud pile to collect some *Iris lactea chinensis* conveniently blooming there in the spring sun. This is a common iris in China, especially in the poorest soils and sites. It was almost done blooming, and seed pods were forming. The plants here had bright purple 'stains' along the base of the leaves. I am sure the Chinese workers collected at the mud slide site had some ideas about this odd westerner clambering about and above the mud to dig some weeds.

Reluctant to turn back from a second unsuccessful *Iris narcissiflora* quest we drove back to Wen Chuan for lunch and a tire repair. Refreshed, we drove slowly back toward Guan Xian. Along the steep dry roadside, we caught sight of another iris high up on the slopes. It looked like *Iris tectorum*, but none of the typical broad leaved fans were visible. We stopped a few times, but could not get close enough in the steep road cuts to reach any plants. Soon we found a spot with a small field of potatoes above the road cut. We hiked down the road around and above, but still the plants were out of reach below us. I hung over the edge and was able to pull up one plant without any flowers. It just added to the confusion as the leaves were long and thin with a small rounded woody rhizome. Another mystery until we found a flower.

Heading farther south by a small village, we found flowers within reach and identified it easily as *Iris sichuanensis* a recently described bearded species in the pseudoregelia group. This is a good sized plant with a large lovely lilac/purple flower. The flower is very similar to *I. tectorum* except there is a beard and the leaves are thin in *sichuanensis*. The short stubby rhizome has numerous thick roots coming off of it. It is a beautiful plant. Later we found a couple of different color forms of the flowers, and I suspect it is more variable than we found if only time were available to inspect them closely. This alone made the somewhat frustrating day worthwhile.

The next morning we toured the Institute and Prof. Yang offered me a division of an *Iris* sp. she had collected a few years earlier in a remote area in Northwest Sichuan. It was clearly a Siberian in form, but no flower was available. A few small divisions were made for later distribution to some of the trip sponsors. It is said to have a single dark blue flower late in summer. Hopefully one of the sponsors can fill in identification and details later.

That afternoon we headed SW across the Sichuan basin to the town of Yaan. This is the main campus of Sichuan Agricultural University and was to be our center for the next few days of travel. We had rooms at the University Guest House and went to the campus for dinner. There we met our first major demonstration. Students had gathered in a large athletic field near the dining hall in support of their peers in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. There was a feeling of sadness and frustration among the demonstrators, but it was all very orderly and fairly quiet. We were to see this group in the same location over the next few days where they remained day and night, rain or sun, during our entire stay.

The next morning we made another try for *Iris narcissiflora* by driving to Mt. Niba just above 2,000 m in altitude to our SW. Our party consisted of both Professors, an Iris student, Zhou Yan Dong, Lu Bo and myself in our Nissan landcruiser. We made it to within site of Mt. Niba before we were stopped by a landslide. This one was bigger than any other we had seen and stopped all traffic. Three large bulldozers were moving dirt, and we were told we could pass this way in about two days! Instead we sat and watched buses unload on each end of the landslide, saw passengers dragging children and luggage over the pile, then reboard buses and head on their way. We contemplated a similar routine when Prof. Yen took authority into his hands and went off to talk to police and officials at the slide site.

Half an hour later we unloaded our supplies and lunch, left Zhou to wait with the car, climbed over the landslide avoiding the unwatchful bulldozers and climbed into an Army Jeep. The Army officer-driver decided it would be more interesting to take us on our 'iris hunt' than sit there and direct traffic. We drove about a half hour to his check point and another small traffic barrier and then progressed up the mountain. By early afternoon we reached the top, stopped and devoured our modest picnic sharing with our helpful military driver.

We then hiked up into the mountainside to seek our target. Another dilemma. Prof Zhao had collected *I. narcissiflora* on this very spot two years earlier when it was covered in alpine grassland and bordered by scrubs of low *Rhododendron* and roses. Now all the grasslands were converted to potato fields and the scrub was reduced to patches between fields. We soon found a few scraggly 'iris' fans, but close inspection revealed that some were actually *Acorus*, a totally unrelated plant. We searched around and found more fans, but were they *Iris* or *Acorus*? It was too early in the season at this altitude to tell what they might do when and if they bloomed. But we sought out those that looked most iris-like and dug enough for the sponsors. The potato farmer came by and talked about our search. He said he knew of the yellow flowered iris here and kindly pointed to one. Unfortunately, he pointed to the yellow flowered daylily, *Hemerocallis flava*! So we left very unsure of our find and dejected over the results. Our army jeep drove us back down to the landslide, we climbed back and found our friend Zhou and drove back down the mountain.

On the way down we passed through stands of *Iris confusa* and stopped to collect this plant also. This is one of cane type Evansia iris. Prof. Yang says she has found one plant to 1 ½ meters tall (that's nearly 5 ft in height). This plant is found at higher altitudes than the similar and more common *I. japonica* and the common color form is pale blue. Apparently, it does not bloom every year, but seems to alternate between vegetative and flowering growth. There were many flowers to be seen and the plants formed ground covers where it was found. Prof. Yen has made extensive microscopic studies on this species and will publish his findings soon regarding the karyotype and genetics.

The next morning, my last full collecting day in Sichuan, we headed for Mt. Erlang near the Tibet border and yet another site of *I. narcissiflora*. The actual type location for this *Iris* is the town of Kanding (a new name for Tachienlu), but

Kanding is totally closed to foreign visitors, and we could not enter. Still we thought it should be found in the mountains outside of Kanding. But it was not to be.



LEFT: This is the newly described *Iris sichuanensis*, a pseudoregelia. It is similar to the little known *I. leptophylla* and grown in dry rock faces in the mountains of western Sichuan.

RIGHT: Large beds of Louisiana Iris cultivars flourish behind the scenes at Shanghai Botanical Gardens. This has been one of the finest groups of iris suited to lowland sites on China coasts.

We left early enough, but had many road repair stops as we headed for the mountains. By this time I was somewhat used to mountain roads in China, but this was truly the worst. We drove almost 4 hours until and again within sight of the top of our destination we came to a row of vehicles stopped for a 'disaster' ahead. In this case there was no landslide, but the road itself was in such bad shape the authorities would not allow two way traffic. Instead in two hours the oncoming traffic would turn in our direction and remain one way for five hours.

Then the traffic would stop and be reversed until dark. Our choice was to turn back or wait two hours for a five hour trip up the mountain. The one way section went almost all the way to Kanding, our 'forbidden' destination.

We stopped, waited and lunched. The signal was given and soon all the waiting anxious trucks, busses and cars took off like a mad race up the mountain on a one way wretched road. Of course, everyone wanted to pass anyone going even the slightest bit slower than anyone else and the first few miles were nothing but hair-raising, death defying passes and being passed accompanied by endless honking and swerving alternating between hugging the mountain side and hanging over the edge. All curves, bumps and terror for over an hour until we reached the top of Mt. Erlang at nearly 3,000 m. At the summit and within shot of the Tibet border, we were met by cold damp windy weather. The chief vegetation is the scrubby bamboo *Gelidocalmus fangianus* and most of the surface was scattered with what appeared to be paper litter. I stopped to pick up the brightly printed trash only to discover a stack of Tibetan prayer papers. These are thrown to the winds on mountain-tops to ask favors of the gods. Of various sizes and colors and completely indecipherable to any in our party, they all shared certain pictures and symbols of mysterious religious significance. We walked down a path cut through the bamboo and found no iris.

We drove on over the peak to a lower altitude closer to Kanding. Soon we came to the other traffic control point: if we crossed the check point we would have to wait at least another couple of hours for the official reversal of traffic to return in our homeward direction. Instead, we ventured a U-turn and a slow upstream return with stops to collect. Hiking at this altitude is not easy and much huffing and puffing later we decided to call it quits. For our effort one fan of iris (or *Acorus* (?)). There were numerous pine forests and growing in the shade of these trees I found various wild *Allium* sp. a *Cypripedium* orchid and some *Polygonatum*.

We returned late as usual and got up early to make a drive back to Chengdu. More demonstrating students met us in the streets of Ya-an and on the way to Chengdu. One of my party in Sichuan said that the students were extremely saddened by the imposition of martial law. They cried for five hours.

In Chengdu I had most of a day to clean plants and pack them for the flight to Shanghai. I found that plants had to be cleaned and packed over and over again. I always hand-carried plants with me on flights. This meant making them fit into the largest carry-on luggage I could handle. After the wealth of large *Iris* species in Sichuan, I had to purchase a second carry on bag to hold all the plants. Student demonstrations were going on day and night in Chengdu even through the light rain. At this stage martial law had been imposed in Beijing and demonstrations anywhere were officially forbidden, but the orderly demonstrators were fully supported by workers, police and other observers. Parades up and down People's Boulevard continued the duration of my few days there.

Back in Shanghai work began in earnest. All plants were gathered in my hotel room to check on identification, trim off major damages, and I con-

ducted my own inspection for disease and insects. The next morning they were transported to the Shanghai Botanical Garden offices, and with the help of six people, we cleaned them vigorously removing all spotted or dead foliage, mush spots, insect damage, etc., etc. They were then placed in large flat bamboo baskets to dry. A call to the Chinese Agricultural Health authorities was made, and due to the large number of plants, they agreed to the unusual step of coming to the garden. Normally export plants must be brought to them for inspection.

That afternoon a team of two inspectors came and looked carefully at every plant and piece of plant. Some were asked to be cleaned more. Some had to have fruits removed. Some were given the evil eye, but passed and finally they all passed inspection. Another exhausting day, but not over yet as my worst distress was to follow.

Although it was getting on to mid-afternoon, this was my first chance to confirm my flight back to the U.S. the next day. A driver was arranged and Lu Bo and I went to the Air China offices for the routine of checking in for the return flight. In China a foreigner must present himself in person with passport, ticket and permits to obtain any tickets. Although there are exceptions, this is the usual case. This was my first chance in 24 hours to make my confirmation, and one can imagine my dismay to find that my return ticket had been officially cancelled. I had not come in person to the ticket office at least 72 hours prior to the flight. I explained that I was in Sichuan at the time, but to no avail. They politely explained I had only a couple of options: I could reserve a seat at the end of June (a month away) or try "stand-by" tomorrow, but the plane which started in Beijing was loaded with extra passengers (presumably fleeing tourists due to the increasing unrest).

A few telephone calls to the garden later, I realized I had no option, but to try something tomorrow and wait at the airport with bags in hand. I took this late, left over and loose afternoon to head with Lu Bo for downtown Shanghai. Our bus was often slowed or stopped by student marches, and we passed the largest demonstration in the people's park. My goals were some science book stores. On the way we saw many small bands of marching students and others simply blocking traffic. All the people standing by applauded including police and military people. The demonstrators were young, enthusiastic but orderly and certainly not violent. Their most outrageous acts were to paint slogans with black paint on the side of city buses while encouraged by drivers and passengers. I felt no pangs of fear or danger.

I spent a sleepless night wondering about the mythical "Plan B" should I be unable to board my scheduled flight back to the U.S. I was met at the hotel by the vice director of the garden and she stated she had contacted a friend of a friend who was the manager of a large international hotel at the airport, and the manager knew someone who worked for the airlines and that person might be able to get me a seat for a slight 'service charge.' I jumped at the chance and off we went to the airport four hours early. We got to the airport hotel and waited. Fortunately, the hotel manager really had some contacts and we were able to get news of the flight and its delayed departure from

Beijing. Unfortunately, it was totally booked. Fortunately, they expected a few extra seats in Shanghai because some passengers were simply leaving Beijing and coming to safer Shanghai.

At the airport I parted from my new friends and great helpers from the Shanghai Botanical Gardens and was left with the hotel manager who spoke no English! The plane was due to leave at 1:30, but at 1:30 I was still in front of the baggage claim without a ticket. By 3:00 pm when the plane left I was somehow seated and flying out of China with two bags filled with more than four hundred live native iris plants. I felt immediate relief but extended sadness for the events I had seen transpiring around me.

I faced an almost all day flight back, but because of the date line, I arrived in San Francisco about six hours before I had departed Shanghai. I went right to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture inspection station and subjected myself and the plants to seven hours work with three inspectors to clear the irises. These thorough inspections included the removal of all the nearly ripe seed capsules from those irises that had pods. I had booked the latest possible connecting flight to give them adequate time and they worked right up to the last minute. They felt so contrite about the extended inspections that one of the group volunteered to drive me and my baggage back to the airport with only a few minutes to flight time. I rushed to curbside check in and checked my bags through and confirmed my flight in seconds. Still suffering from flight cancellation and the trials of Chinese baggage check-in, I almost laughed out loud at the ease of getting all this accomplished within seconds here.

Because of the international date line, delays and extensions in flights, I made it from Shanghai, to Kansas City from wake up to head on pillow, in about forty-four hours, but it was still the same day on the calendar! The next day I spent the entire day in more sorting and cleaning to get plants into order for the second day when two friends from the Greater Kansas City Iris Society, Ms. Faye Carpenter and Ms. Donna Aldridge helped me to re-sort, label and pack plants for shipping to my sponsors. This day was Friday of a three day holiday weekend, so it took some last minute frenzy to get these shipped to insure delivery as rapidly as possible. Most packages were received within eighteen hours of shipping, and now the fate of these plants is in the hands of these sponsors.

So the dream of a year ago and the plant dreams of brave plant hunters of the nineteenth century suddenly came face to face with the political realities of China today. I was wildly successful in that I returned with almost four hundred plants of seventeen different species including a couple very new even to science and never in cultivation. This was way beyond my most optimistic predictions. I was physically exhausted and mentally distressed. Ten days after my return the bloody massacre in Tiananmen Square brought new worries to me about friends everywhere in China. I have since heard from most of these people, and they are trying to resolve those events and get on with their daily events.

The iris are here in the U.S., in Canada and in France. Initial reports seem encouraging in that most people are growing most of the iris. A few will not

make it at all, but that is to be expected. The dreams and gambles that were taken to make this trip a successful reality now seem like a very fortunate and timely combination. When will China open its friendly and willing doors again to allow any foreigner to travel into forbidden cities and countrysides of Manchuria and Sichuan? When will this huge and varied country allow another glimpse at its rich Iris flora? I hope that this China Iris Project has helped to bridge some gaps between irisarians in the U.S., China and elsewhere to ease future communications. I have initiated a number of new dreams—a Chinese Iris Society, a Chinese Iris Research Fund and the potential for new plant and seed exchanges to name a few—by starting a Chinese Iris Fund. But what will the future bring for China and its irises? I can't foretell events, but I hope we can all have a better understanding and some new approaches and knowledge of China and its irises.

Should readers of this report wish to donate to the China Iris Fund or find out more about the progress of this fund or the China Iris Project please send an SASE to the author.

Doctor Waddick in China

George Waters (California)

The botanic garden at Hangzhou, in southern China, is a beautiful place, well landscaped and with clearly labeled plants. During the cultural revolution, when many botanic gardens were damaged, lacked staff, and were neglected, this one prospered. The garden staff attributes prosperity to the intervention of Chairman Mao himself; he was especially interested in Chinese folk medicine, and here at Hangzhou plants used in traditional medicine are collected and studied.

The herb garden at Hangzhou is unlike those we know at home, which are almost invariably based on Medieval European designs. Instead of a series of small symmetrical beds, the plants at Hangzhou are in a naturalistic garden with mossy rocks and large trees. Paths winding through the garden take visitors by a huge number of plants from the Chinese pharmacopoeia. The properties of most of these plants are little understood by doctors trained in the West.

It was in the herb garden last May that, quite unexpectedly, I met Jim Waddick, a burly, bearded botanist from Kansas City, Missouri. He has a great knowledge of plants and retains special enthusiasm for irises. These qualities, and his ready smile, have, it is clear, endeared him to his colleagues in the garden.

He was there studying and collecting China's native irises and was interested in an unfamiliar one I'd seen at the roadside in Huangshan. He has since identified the iris from my photograph as *Iris proantha*. Brian Mathew in *The Iris* refers to *I. proantha* along with *I. pseudorossii* and says that he "can detect no important differences" between them. Dr. Waddick tells me that *I. pseudorossii* is now regarded as a synonym for *I. proantha*.

We have much to learn about Chinese irises. Mathew mentions several from tropical and subtropical areas of the far East that could be cultivated in milder parts of the US, but are known here only from herbarium specimens and photographs. Jim left China just before the great event in Beijing earlier this year and has brought eighteen or so irises with him. These he is sending to botanical institutions and members of the AIS who expressed interest in his trip. In the right hands the plants will multiply and irisarians may yet have the opportunity to cultivate them and become familiar with these elusive eastern beauties.



James W. Waddick at Hangzhou with Xing-yu, the botanic garden's bamboo specialist, and Li Jing-Ten, in charge of the herb garden. Photograph by George Waters



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Horace A. Wright (Ohio)

James R. Hamblen (Utah)

The Officers and Directors of AIS extend sympathy to Melba Hamblen in the loss of her husband, Jim.

Jim was Melba's partner in the operation of Mission Bell Iris Gardens. He raised many kinds of animals, including rabbits, goats, and chickens. He was an avid daylily fan and a friend to the many irisarians who visited Mission Bell Gardens each year.

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A Myth: Vitamin B-1 As a Transplant Aid

Adele S. Lawyer (California)

When we worked in the Agricultural Research Department of the Del Monte Corporation, numerous experiments were conducted in the days when tomato seedlings were transplanted into commercial fields bare root. Both field and greenhouse tests proved B-1 to be of no benefit to transplanting health of seedlings. Although this work was done more than 20 years ago, we have noticed through the years that nurseries still sell B-1 for this purpose. Some individuals must still be under the impression that it is useful.

The University of California at Riverside recently released the following data in a report by Dennis Pittenger. Dennis Pittenger is an urban horticulturist for the University.

"Vitamin B-1 (Thiamine hydrochloride) has been packaged and sold to home gardeners for many years to stimulate root development and reduce transplant shock in many garden and landscape plants.

"The basis for its effectiveness stems from laboratory research studies conducted in the 1930s in which Vitamin B-1 was found necessary for the growth of detached roots of plants grown in special culture media.

"Although it is required for root growth, plants apparently manufacture enough Vitamin B-1 in their leaves. In fact, further studies with several plant species have failed to show significant growth response to Vitamin B-1 applications.

"Formulations of Vitamin B-1 root stimulator products sold in garden centers usually contain a low concentration of fertilizer. Some also contain a synthetic plant hormone, NAA, (naphthalene acetic acid).

"Recent studies by University of California Cooperative Extension researchers compared transplants treated with the following: commercial products of Vitamin B-1 plus fertilizer and NAA; Vitamin B-1 alone; fertilizer alone, and no treatment.

"The studies looked at growth rates of transplanted vegetable crops and flowering bedding plants. Results showed that all plants became established and grew satisfactorily regardless of the treatment.

"Those treated with Vitamin B-1 alone grew no better than those left untreated. Plants treated with fertilizer alone and with a vitamin-plus-fertilizer product grew the best, but there was no difference between them.

"The conclusion to be drawn from these studies is that improved transplant growth is due to the presence of the dilute fertilizer and not Vitamin B-1.

"Gardeners should consider this when purchasing products and use only dilute fertilizer solutions or plain water when transplanting. Neither fertilizer nor Vitamin B-1 are necessary to ensure successful transplanting."

Rare Irises Among Three Plants Newly Listed as Federally Threatened

Martha Makhholm (Wisconsin)

Reprinted from THE NICHE, Newsletter for the Wisconsin DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources, Winter, 1988.

It is a warm spring day. With the sun on your back you are ambling slowly along a trail that skirts white cobble beach shoreline in Door County. The trail turns and climbs slightly and just as you reach sparse cedar forest you discover one of Wisconsin's rarest and most beautiful delights—the small lilac-blue flowers of the dwarf lake iris (*Iris Lacustris*).

The significance of this plant extends beyond the beauty it adds to the Door Peninsula shoreline. It is one of several rare plants in Wisconsin that have been added to the federal list of endangered and threatened species. Until this year, Wisconsin had just two federally listed plant species. This number more than doubled in 1988 when three more, including the dwarf lake iris, were added to the list.

The dwarf lake iris is also listed by the state of Wisconsin as a threatened species. This status makes it illegal to process or sell dwarf lake iris plants or to remove or transport them from public land. It is also illegal to remove these plants from private land without the permission of the land owner. Permits to work with these plants are required and may be granted for scientific and educational purposes and for management or preservation.

Although listing provides some degree of protection to these plants, it does not guarantee this species a permanent home in our state's flora. Dwarf lake iris is still vulnerable to loss of its habitat to shoreline home and road building, high lake levels, and natural succession to closed forest—the very factors that placed this plant on the list in the first place.

The dwarf lake iris is endemic to the Great Lakes Area. In addition to shoreline areas of the Door Peninsula, it is found along shorelines in Michigan and Ontario. Its world-wide distribution thus consists of small stretches of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron shoreline.

In Wisconsin the distribution of dwarf lake iris is intimately tied to the glacial history of the Door Peninsula. Colonies in Door County range from several meters to several kilometers inland from current Lake Michigan and Green Bay shorelines. They all lie on land once covered by post-glacial Lake Nipissing. This lake was the precursor to Lake Michigan and had water levels some 20 to 25 feet higher than present Lake Michigan levels. As water levels dropped, iris apparently colonized newly exposed beach areas. As the water levels continued to drop, some of these areas gradually became forested with white cedar or boreal forest. When this occurred, the sun-loving iris survived only in areas with breaks in the canopy that permitted some direct sunlight to reach the forest floor. Thus, in Door County, iris is now found within the zone

between Lake Nipissing water levels and present day Lake Michigan levels in beach areas, cedar glades, and along the edges of boreal forests. Only occasionally are colonies found within mature forest and these are always associated with some type of opening in the canopy such as a road or trail.

The situation is very different for the Brown County colonies. These inland colonies are at altitudes of 700 to 800 feet above sea level and often are found in much more mature forest. The location of these iris sites is strongly correlated with the distribution of isolated gravel and sand deposits in drainage areas of pre-glacial Lake Oshkosh, a huge lake that extended from north of the Green Bay area to much farther south, paralleling the present Door Peninsula. Thus, the Brown County sites, although well beyond the shores of Lake Michigan, are distributed along the former shores or waterways of another, even more ancient lake.

This diminutive iris is true to its ancestry and has the flat, linear, swordlike leaves of its larger iris relatives. Vegetative shoots are composed of six or seven leaves and emerge from a horizontal creeping stem called a rhizome. A single iris plant has a branching network of rhizomes and may have several to dozens of shoots. In a healthy patch of iris roughly one-third to one-fourth of the shoots will produce flowers. While the leaves of vegetative shoots reach lengths of six to eight inches, those of flowering shoots are much shorter, less than one inch to one-and-one-half inches, and clasp the stem of the shoot's single flower. Viewed from above, the flower itself is about the size of a quarter and has the typical six-part structure of an iris flower: three sepals and three petals. The flowers range in color from a deep blue or violet to pale blue or lilac with the three sepals sporting white crests which are outlined in deep purple and have a yellow streak down the middle. A rare white-flowered form of the species also occurs in Wisconsin.

Dwarf lake iris tubers break their winter dormancy in early May or mid-May by sending up vegetative shoots. Flowering follows immediately and occurs primarily from Mid-May through early June with an occasional flower appearing in late June. Fruit capsules mature about seven to ten days after flowering and are very fragile and begin to disintegrate quickly. Because of this they are difficult to find except immediately after flowering. The seeds are dispersed by ants which collect them in order to obtain a small fat body (an eliosome) attached to the seed which they eat. Apparently, seeds overwinter at least one year before germinating in late May and early June.

Vegetative growth occurs throughout the summer. These shoots, which are only an inch tall at flowering, reach lengths of six to eight inches. A tuber that produces an unsuccessful flower (i.e., one that does not produce fruit) will frequently produce one or two additional vegetative shoots. These small shoots are easily distinguished from the original older shoots. Thus, as the summer progresses, iris colonies appear to fill in.

During the summer following flowering, new tubers are formed at the base of the vegetative shoots. As energy is stored for new growth in the following spring, the base of the vegetative shoots begins to thicken and the young tubers can be distinguished from the rhizome. By late August tiny growing

tips—next year's shoots—can be detected on the tubers. If the tuber is in good habitat and therefore is vigorous and has a good supply of energy, there may be as many as five such growing tips, one of which will be a flower. If the tuber is in trouble, barely surviving, it will produce only one vegetative shoot and no flowers. A colony in poor habitat will appear very scraggly because of the low numbers of shoots produced.

The growing season ends in September or early October with the onset of cooler weather. As the leaves of the shoots dry and wither, the tubers begin a dormant period that will carry them through the winter.

If you are interested in seeing this Wisconsin beauty, I heartily recommend a May trip to Door County. A good place to see it in its natural habitat is in Peninsula State Park along the southern portions of Sunset Trail. This trail winds its way through the Peninsula Park White Cedar Forest State Natural Area. It also thrives in the island of vegetation near the park headquarters. Another excellent site is The Ridge Sanctuary on the eastern side of the peninsula near Bailey's Harbor. Here you can see an almost mind-boggling array of spring flowers in an area of sand dunes and developing boreal forest. Please remember to avoid damaging the plants and above all resist the urge to pick the flowers! In their profusion they appear secure, safe from extinction. But appearances are deceiving. In the whole world these few colonies provide the genetic future for this precious part of our natural heritage.

1990 Membership Contest

Lucy Fry (Kansas)

The membership contest was begun as an effort to attract new members to the Society. In that respect it has been a success. However, we need to encourage these new members to continue their membership. With that in mind, we have increased the number of points awarded for conversion of an annual membership to a triennial.

We have added a new category that will allow the youth to participate in the contest. Youth recruiting youth members should create more participation in the youth program and not prevent anyone from entering the contest.

The deadline for reporting results of the contest for inclusion in the April issue of the Bulletin necessitates moving the cut off date for new memberships to December 10. Any memberships reported after that time will be credited to the recruiter for the following contest year. This does shorten the contest time in 1990 but should get us back on a full 12 months for the 1991 contest.

Look over the new rules carefully and join us in promoting the advantages of being an A.I.S. member. Contact your RVP or Regional Membership Chairman or me for membership applications or information regarding the contest.

1990 Membership Contest

The 1990 Membership Contest will recognize individuals and affiliates who enroll new members in A.I.S. during the current year.

During the 1991 A.I.S. Convention, one award will be presented to a youth member, one to an adult member and one to an A.I.S. affiliate who have accumulated the largest number of points in the contest. The individual in each Region who obtains the largest number of points (with a minimum of 30) will be awarded a certificate of achievement. Names of the winners will be published in the April 1991 Bulletin.

Each affiliate must decide whether its members will participate in the contest as individuals or as a group. Points will be credited in each division as follows:

- 10 points for each new single annual membership
- 15 points for each new family annual
- 20 points for each single triennial
- 25 points for each new family triennial

In order to encourage continued membership in A.I.S., more points will be awarded for conversion of membership from annual to triennial. This applies to those memberships that have been in effect for a minimum of one year.

- 15 points for converting single annual to single triennial
- 25 points for converting family annual to family triennial
- 10 points for converting single triennial to family triennial

Points for new youth memberships will be awarded to youth recruiters *only*. Youth recruiters will follow the rules of the adult categories for all other memberships. Points for new youth memberships are as follows:

- 10 points for a new youth member added to an existing family membership.
- 25 points when the new member is a solitary member

Rules

1. Membership application and payment of dues are made, directly to the A.I.S. Membership Society and may be submitted by the recruiter or by the new member.

2. The RVP of the member's region and the A.I.S. Contest Chairman: Lucy Fry, 2640 N. Bluff, Wichita, KS, 67220 should be notified by the recruiter within 30 days.

3. Each new membership should be reported on separate 3x5 card or paper, listing the following information: the name, address, and Region number of the new member; the type of membership—single, family, youth; term of membership—annual or triennial; name, address and Region of the sponsoring youth, adult or affiliate. Only those memberships reported correctly will be counted.

4. Renewal of memberships after a lapse of two years will count as new members.

5. New memberships received by the Membership Chairman postmarked after December 10, 1990, will not count for the 1990 contest, but will be credited to the recruiter for the 1991 contest.

First SPCNI Spring Expedition

Adele Lawyer (California)

On May 12, 1989, forty three members of AIS's Section, The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris, (SPCNI), converged on Roseberg, Oregon from many directions, all anxious to see "Pacifica" irises in their native habitat.

In this southwestern portion of Oregon, more species of the *Californicae* are found than in any other region of comparable size in the Pacific States. The Siskiyou National Forest encompasses much of this special area and thus offers protection from encroachment by development, which can discourage the colonization of these little beauties.

We gathered at our motel on this, the evening before our departure, to meet each other and to see some pictures illustrating differentiation of the species prepared by Gigi Hall. Claude and Joanne Derr also showed pictures of *Iris tenuis* growing in profusion near their home in Estacada, Oregon. Though a western native iris, *I. tenuis* belongs to the *Evansia* rather than *Californicae* series, but is also a joy to behold.

Our participants were from Southern California, Northern California, and Oregon. We were also honored to number Dora Sparrow, from Christchurch, New Zealand, among our company. Dora grows and hybridizes Pacific Coast native iris, (PCN), and made the long trip from down-under especially to see them in their home environment.

The next morning we boarded our private bus at 8:30 and set out on our expedition. This could properly be called an "expedition" since none of the participants had traveled our route before, nor were any of those present qualified as experts in the identification of Pacific coast native iris (PCNs). We had the benefit of advice on the route from Roy Davidson, George Gessert, and others, and we came armed with Victor A. Cohen's *A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises* and Lee W. Lenz's *A Revision of the Pacific Coast Iris and Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Iris*.

We were also equipped with cameras, box-lunches, and enthusiasm! When the bus driver asked for an itinerary and the number and location of stopping places, we were able to tell him which roads to take, but the stops were dependent upon our discoveries along the way. And, indeed, the official "stop" procedure became a chorus of, "There's some! Iris! Stop!"

Our first stop was off Highway 42 westbound, where a small road branched off to the right. There was much excitement here with our first view of *I. chrysophylla* and *I. Tenax* natural hybrids in shades of lavender. Starting at this stop, an unexpected plus for the trip occurred. Wayne Roderick was able to provide botanical identification for everything non-iris we encountered. Wayne, a native plant specialist, recently retired from management positions at the University of California, Berkeley, and the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Gardens, was a marvelous instructor. Each time we stopped, he collected specimens of flowers and shrubs, and when we were driving from one stop to another, these were named, described, and passed through the bus for all to see.



Buds and flowers of *I. innominata* at China Flat.



More China Flat yellow-orange *I. innominata*



"*I. thompsonii*" (*I. innominata* x *I. douglasiana*) at Gasquet.

We turned off Highway 42 onto 219, which largely follows the course of the Coquille River and becomes Siskiyou National Forest Road 33 after leaving the little town of Powers. Soon after entering the Forest area we turned onto a logging road at China Flat. There we saw *Iris Innominata* in bright shades of yellow and yellow-orange, some with a delicate tracery of veining on the falls, others with a bold red-brown or maroon veining, and still others with a blush of red. There were slim-petaled flowers and rounded ones. Many were finished garden flowers, compact and floriferous, perfect for a niche in the rock garden, or a cluster in front of an azalea planting. And in this instance they were accompanied by calachortus, ferns, ranunculus, wallflowers, and erythroniums. This marvelous combination of color and form was a treat for all the senses. It was difficult to leave.

When we reached the summit at the end of the first paved area of Road 33, we stopped for a picnic lunch here on the grass. Walking down a side road, between bites, we found more *inominata*; but this time they were in shades of cream, their falls decorated more subtly with veining than at China Flat. Perhaps these would seem more suitable for conservative gardens, where near-orange flowers are considered garish.

We made an interesting stop along the road about 13 miles east of Gold Beach. This was an area that had been clear-cut and re-forested. The young, foot-high trees were about 10 feet apart, and in between were grasses, poison oak, ceanothus, rhododendrons, and IRIS,—huge, vigorous, healthy clumps of *I.douglasiana*. Each separate clump was a different color,—varied shades of white, lavender, and purple. They were lovely in themselves and made a smashing overall effect in the relatively open area.

The sight of beautiful PCNs and other flowers along road cuts where they have good drainage and reduced competition, and also growing happily in areas where trees have been harvested for lumber, made some of us on the trip wax philosophic. Perhaps some good does come from man's intrusion on nature's way. The iris grow, bloom, and seed much more freely with more light than is available under the tall trees' shade. And we would never have had the pleasure of seeing them if it were not for the access the roads provide. Not all of us are young enough or healthy enough to backpack into wilderness areas; but if we were, it is hard to imagine that our pleasure would increase in proportion to the energy expended!

We stayed overnight at Brookings on the coast and started out the next morning with a stop at Azalea State Park, here. Native azaleas have been growing here since it was part of the grounds of a great estate. Some azaleas are 300 years old, and all were a soft pink and white with a wonderful fragrance. Walking through them and breathing them in was a wonderful way to start the day.

We dipped down into California for a brief while, turning from Highway 101 to 99, and searching for *I.thompsonii* near the town of Gasquet. These are probably crosses between *I.innominata* and *I.douglasiana*, and not a separate species. They were principally creamy with a flush of lavender and very pleasing form.

The next stop, (really spectacular), was near the Oregon town of O'Brien. Here we went off on another unpaved logging road and stopped near a bridge crossing Whiskey Creek. There we all piled out of the bus and perched on boulders beside the clear, rushing stream to enjoy our lunch. It was a fascinating spot. The iris spotlighted this time was *I. bracteata*. Its color ranged from creamy yellow to a golden-peach with brown or maroon veining. Its flowers were large and of fine form and their leaves were wide, dark green, and healthy. Each plant had few leaves, however, and the plants occurred as scattered individuals rather than clustering in generous clumps. In spite of this characteristic, their elegant appearance sparkled in the midst of the many other beautiful flowers and shrubs here.

The most sensational were the *Darlingtonia Californicae*. It was hard to believe that the thousands of carnivorous "pitcher plants" which cascaded down the slopes and settled in the bogs below the seepage areas could be the same plants many of us had nursed along under glass bell-jars in greenhouses or under controlled conditions. They looked wicked and dangerous with reddish-brown blotches and curved, hungry necks.

And then there were the beautiful flowers in which bracteata was scattered: violas, silene, phlox, roses, Lewisias, calachortus, buttercups, delphiniums, purple alium, castilleja, daisies, and pussy willows. *Dicentra oregonum* attracted much attention, not only because of its attractive cut-work leaves and nodding pink flowers, but because it is relatively rare. Our group walked back



Lacy, dainty *I. chrysophylla* on the Cow Creek road

down the road toward O'Brien, stopping to climb a hill or explore a gully, with the bus following and picking up anyone needing a lift. This was an especially enjoyable spot, rich in varied plant material.

We had to hurry along north on I-5 to our next exploration, this time to find *I.chrysophylla*, reported to be along the loop road between Glendale and Riddle. This road wandered back and forth on either side of Cow Creek. Its only drawback was the scarcity of spaces large enough for a vehicle to park off the road. There was much enthusiasm when we were finally able to stop, because *I.chrysophylla* was distinctly different from any of the species we had seen earlier. And we found them to be very lovely, contrary to Victor Cohen's reaction to them in *A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises* in which he states, "I must confess to a great disappointment when I first saw it." (*I.chrysophylla*) "The flowers tend to look thin and fragile, and carried over spathes which look too heavy for them." To our minds, this was one of the qualities contributing to their charm! They were all very pale cream or off-white with delicate, golden veining. They were airy and light in appearance, looking very much as though they were about to take off and join the butterflies. The impression was produced by their long, thin style arms, the crests of which were split, giving them a lacy look. And the light color of the flowers was exactly right to match their delicacy. The sight of them in profusion, as it turned out, was the climax of our long and fruitful day.

Leaving this spot, we proceeded along Cow Creek and saw purple-flowered *I. tenax* along the way. In spite of repeated cries of "Iris, Stop! Stop!" our bus driver could not find a place where parking was possible. He did pause momentarily so that one of our number could leap out, grab an iris, and jump back in the bus again. We thus confirmed that the purple iris seen was indeed, *Iris tenax*.

Tenax is common from this southwest-central Oregon area and up through Washington. On another such tour, we will plan to stop to see these iris and the natural hybrids between *I. tenax* and *I.chrysophylla* which are easy to view from some excellent parking spots which we located the day following our tour.

We returned to our motel at Roseberg by 6 o'clock on May 14th, and before we said our goodbyes, everyone said, "Let's do it again next year!"

Some of our group had to go to Eugene immediately so that they could leave by air and return to work the next day. Many others stayed over in Roseberg and set out the next day to return home or to continue on to visit native iris haunts, which abound in the area. Laurie's Gardens were deluged with tour members both before and after our trip, and some went on to visit Schreiners, Cooleys, Bennett Jones, the Aitkens, and to attend a program on all types of iris given by the Hardy Plant Society.

It was a weekend of total enjoyment, capped by an offer by Bill and Jeanne Ferrell of Philomath, Oregon, who announced that they would collect seeds this summer to share with the group from all of our stops along the way. Subsequently, Eugene and Joanne Loop of Walnut Creek, California, also retraced a portion of our trip and brought additional seed back with them,

notably from the China Flat and O'Brien areas. There should be plenty to share!

To further perpetuate the Spring experience, a slide program is being prepared, compiling the best pictures taken by all the photographers in our group. In this way we can share the excitement and beauty of our trip with those who wish to borrow the set from the SPCNI section of AIS.

An Issue: Why the Rush?

Clarence Mahan (Virginia)

The issue: Would the objectives of the AIS award system be better served by adding a year to the eligibility requirement for the Honorable Mention (HM) Award? Instead of being eligible the second year after introduction, would it be better if an iris became eligible for the HM the third year?

Since joining AIS, I have heard many critiques for the award system, and that surely is healthy. After all, when we stop examining what problems we may have and how we might get better, we cease to progress. Some of the things I have heard: "Some judges vote for the hybridizer, not the iris." "We face a real regional bias—East Coast irises don't have much of a chance." "Rebloomers don't get any recognition—they have to be twice as good to get an HM." "The HM is becoming meaningless." Have you ever heard such comments? Have you ever made such comments?

Let's look at a few statistics. In 1984, 71 tall bearded irises received the HM Award. Only three of these recipients got more than 100 votes; BUBBLING OVER, MULLED WINE, and WEDDING CANDLES. The median number of votes for an HM winner in 1984 was 31 votes. All except five of the top 35 vote getters were introduced in 1982. In total, 47 of the HM winners were introduced in 1982, 16 in 1981, and eight in 1980. All except six of the HM winners were hybridized west of the Mississippi River. Of the twelve Award of Merit (AM) winners, nine were introduced in 1980, two in 1979, and one in 1978. None of the AM winners were from the East. No iris registered as a rebloomer was among the HM or AM recipients. No Eastern iris got more than 40 votes. In an ideal world outstanding irises would receive the HM, and no outstanding iris would fail to receive the HM. Would adding another year to the eligibility requirements for the HM better serve the objective? Some of us think so. When a new iris is introduced there is a limited supply. A newly introduced TB usually costs between \$25 and \$35. How many new introductions can one grow? How many are growing in the local area? How many are growing in the region? Even when one makes a valiant effort to grow as many as possible and to attend conventions and visit others' gardens, one's exposure to new introductions is quite limited. Of the irises introduced in the last two years, how many have you seen in bloom? How many have you seen in bloom in two different gardens?

If you buy an iris the year it is introduced, do you feel you can adjudge it to be an outstanding iris after two bloom seasons? If your answer is "no" or a "qualified yes," one must then ask: "Do we expect too much from our judges

in permitting an iris to compete for the HM the second year after introduction?" At best, we could say that the current eligibility rule represents a temptation to vote for irises one isn't really sure about. At worst, one might say it is encouragement!

Extension of the iris bloom season is surely a hybridizing goal most of us would support. But really early bloomers and really late bloomers, because they are blooming outside the peak period for shows and garden tours, suffer a real disadvantage in award competition. Adding a year before an iris is eligible for the HM would not solve this problem, but it would give these season extending irises a better chance for awards. And when it comes to rebloomers, consistency of rebloom is a factor that takes two or three full years to evaluate. Delaying the eligibility for a year would be a great aid in confirming this quality.

Why do so many irises that get the HM get so few votes? One logical reason is that judges really don't get a chance to see many of the newer irises performing. No judge with integrity is going to vote for an iris he/she has not seen. If every AIS judge had seen all 71 of the 1984 HM winners, who can doubt that the voting results would have been dramatically different?

There are a lot more hybridizers living west of the Mississippi than there are in the East. So the issue of whether there is a bias against East coast irises is probably moot. I don't think it would be fair to reach that conclusion just on the basis of statistics. But it is a fact that there are considerably more judges west of the Mississippi. Adding another year to the HM eligibility requirement would give judges in the West more of a chance to see irises from the East perform. Theoretically, this would increase the opportunity for Eastern irises to get awards.

What would be the downside of making new irises wait another year before they are eligible for an HM? It is possible that some commercial growers might object because they do like to advertise that such and such iris has won an HM. Others might object because the change might act to keep prices of newer irises higher for a year longer. For impatient hybridizers, eager to get awards, it would probably add to their impatience. Since I tend to think the change would be beneficial, I'm not sure my consideration of possible negative results is totally objective. What do you think? If you think the rules should be changed, what do you recommend be done?

(Reprinted from the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society Newsletter)

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Canterbury Inn
Wichita, Kansas

November 3-5, 1989

The fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society was called to order at 8:00 PM, Nov. 3, 1989, by President James Rasmussen. Present at this and subsequent sessions were: President Rasmussen; President-elect K. Waite; Immediate Past President and Editor Mullin; Vice President and Recording Secretary Barr; Secretary J. Stayer; Treasurer Corlew; Membership Secretary Ramsey; Publication Sales Director C. J. Lack; Photo Coordinator L. Stayer; Directors James Copeland, Crick, Gates, Gristwood, Hobbs, Lineberger, W. Machulak, O. D. Niswonger and Rice-Waters; Committee Chairman Harder; RVPs Morgan (6), Christopher (7), Koza (8), Baier (11), Strane (15), Howard (17) and Christlieb (18); RVP Representatives A. Waite (1), M. Lowe (also RIS Representative) (4), W. Wiekhorst (20) and Nichols (22); Section Representatives C. Boswell (MIS), J. Fry (DIS) and Hall (SPCNI); Historical Iris Preservation Society President A. Lowe; and guests Jill Copeland (6), A. Machulak (8), L. Boswell (14), L. Fry, Halz, Hargrove, G. McCune, K. McCune and M. Niswonger (18); V. Wiekhorst (20) and K. Lack (22). Following introductions and a word of welcome, President Rasmussen commented on meeting procedures, inviting guest participation in discussion.

The minutes of the spring Board meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, were approved, with one correction, as published in *Bulletin* #275. The correction: In the report of the Membership Contest Chairman, the number of points won by the Southern Kentucky Iris Society should have been 190.

Secretary Stayer announced that as there were no other nominations for vacancies on the Board of Directors, Barr, Hobbs, O. D. Niswonger and Rice-Waters are duly elected and qualified as AIS Directors with terms expiring in 1992.

President Rasmussen reported on interim Board action. A ballot had been sent to all directors regarding the Dykes Medal Award; the vote was in favor of withholding the Dykes Medal Award this year (1989). There was no report from the Executive Committee.

Secretary Stayer reported as follows: 1) the new American Airlines agreement/contract is now in effect and will continue to be so through the spring meeting of 1995, which will take place in Hershey, PA; 2) Maureen Foster has again won the Silver Medal for the British Iris Society's spring show (a second show was not scheduled this year); 3) the British Dykes Medal winner was EARLY LIGHT, raised by Miss Nora Scopes, registered in 1983 from CUP RACE X LEMON BROCADE; 4) with reference to 501(c)(3), Attorney Glenn Spain has been studying inter-relationships within the American Iris Society; his first priority has been the AIS Foundation; the next study will be the sections; 5) Region 20 has again donated 15% of the proceeds from its rhizome sales to the AIS; 6) the secretary continues to have interesting correspondence with irisarians in foreign countries, most recently Poland, West Germany and the USSR; 7) orders for stationery must be placed with the secretary by December 10, except for new RVPs, who will automatically receive imprinted stationery.

There was no report from the recording secretary.

The report of the membership secretary was deferred until the following day.

Treasurer Corlew distributed copies of the annual financial report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1989, and copies of the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1990, to be studied and acted upon later in the meeting.

The report of Editor Mullin was deferred until the following day.

In the absence of Registrar Nelson, Stayer moved that the Board authorize the printing of 750 copies of 1989 *Registrations and Introductions*, with approval for printing costs and for pricing to be given later by the Executive Committee. Rice-Waters seconded. The motion passed.

Publication Sales Director Lack distributed copies of his report of sales for the year, with inventory lists of the AIS archives and of sales materials. Lack spoke about the problems resulting from postage increases, stating that present pricing of sales items is unrealistic with regard to recovering costs. With international mail there are higher postal costs, along with extra fees for cashing overseas checks. Lack presented a list of suggested price increases for certain items. Following lengthy discussion about even greater price increases Lineberger moved that the increases suggested by Chairman Lack be adopted. Copeland seconded. Corlew moved that the motion be amended to say that these price increases should take effect January 1, 1990. Lineberger seconded. The amendment was approved, and the motion passed. Prices will be as follows:

ITEM	NEW PRICE
THE WORLD OF IRISES	\$17.50
'69 and '79 Checklists	17.00
Judges Handbook	6.00
Membership List	7.00
Current R. & I.	5.00
All Back Issues of <i>Bulletin</i>	3.00

It was reported also that Judges Handbook Binders are in short supply. Niswonger moved, Crick seconded, that the secretary be instructed to order 500 binders. The motion carried.

Affiliates Chairman Copeland distributed lists showing, by region, the number of affiliates for the years 1985 through 1989. The total number of affiliates has increased from 125 in 1985 to 138 in 1989.

Awards Committee Chairman Waite reported that ballots listing 2,277 varieties were mailed to 963 accredited judges on April 3. 774 judges returned ballots before the July 10 deadline. No iris

received the required 15% of the votes cast for the Dykes Medal. The Board was polled and the decision made not to have a run-off ballot for 1989. The 1990 Symposium has been completed with all 24 regions reporting and 6 ballots from overseas.

Waite read a letter from Region 13 RVP Aitken stating that at their fall regional meeting disappointment had been expressed that there was no Dykes Medal awarded this year. Members at this regional meeting voted a recommendation that "The AIS shall award the Dykes Medal each year", and that this letter be read at the AIS fall meeting. Following discussion, Corlew moved, Stayer seconded, that the Board reaffirm its policy that in the event that no iris receives the required 15% of the votes to receive the Dykes Medal, the Board shall decide whether to have a run-off ballot. The motion passed. It was suggested that thought be given to the required number of votes to be cast and to the length of time of eligibility for the Dykes Medal. Waite stated also that the question had been raised as to how to get Cal-Sibes and other inter-species hybrids into the awards system. It was suggested that a proposal be drawn up and presented to the Board.

Convention Liaison Williams sent a report, which was read by Stayer. A convention handbook has been sent to the Pennsylvania convention committee, but there have been no official communications from other convention committees.

The report of the Exhibitions Committee was deferred until the following day.

Stayer reported for AIS Foundation Liaison Pettijohn. Since the May meeting in Memphis the Foundation has made a loan of \$5,000 to the Society for Japanese Irises to assist in the publication of their book. There have been no applications for grants or loans during the period. Reports have been submitted to Attorney Glenn Spain in his review of the inter-relationship between the AIS and the Foundation. The Foundation has been named a residuary beneficiary under the will of Matilda A. Reinhardt, New Berlin, Wisconsin. Additional information on the bequest should be available by the end of January, 1990. Arrangements are being made for an audit of the Foundation's accounts, and this audit should be completed by the end of the year.

Historical Committee Chairman Harder reported having received a large number of iris catalogs this year for his files and an even larger number of general catalogs, as well as regional and sectional publications. The excellent article about Dr. Currier McEwen which was recently published in the magazine *Modern Maturity* was mentioned also.

There was no report from the Membership Contest Committee.

The meeting was recessed at 9:50 PM, to reconvene the following day at 8:30 AM.

When the meeting was called to order Saturday morning, November 4, Exhibitions Chairman Hobbs distributed copies of a detailed report of the 179 shows held during the year, more than in any other year in the past decade. There was an increase in the percentage of shows having participation in Youth Divisions and Educational Exhibits. Region 14 had the largest number of shows.

The question was raised as to the eligibility of species irises to be chosen Best Specimen in Show. There was lengthy discussion with numerous suggestions. Corlew moved, Hobbs seconded, that the president appoint a committee to study this matter and report back to the Board. The motion passed.

A question was sent to the Board, also, with regard to a show held inside a botanic garden for which there is an admission fee charged. Does the admission fee to enter the garden violate the AIS rule for having shows open free to the public? The consensus was that it is difficult to make changes in a situation of this kind and that the AIS rule would not be violated in this instance.

Membership Secretary Ramsey presented a detailed report of regional membership statistics for May 15-October 1, 1989, and a complete strength report for 10/1/88 to 10/1/89. The membership total on 10/1/89 was 7,967. Ramsey announced that she is retiring after six years in the job as membership secretary. There were many expressions of appreciation to Ramsey for her dedication not only in this job for the past six years but for her many years of service to the American Iris Society prior to that undertaking.

Following a twenty-minute coffee break, *Bulletin* Editor Mullin reported that the October issue has been mailed. Mullin explained some of the problems involved with putting together an issue of the *Bulletin*, one being the difficulty of keeping the January, April and October issues within the 96 pages normally allowed because of certain information which is designated for specific issues each year. Also, Mullin asked again that the sections please send the names of their new officers to him as soon as possible after elections.

There was discussion of *Bulletin* policy. Niswonger moved, Corlew seconded, that the Board send a letter of condolence to Melba Hamblen on the death of her husband, James Hamblen, and that this be acknowledged in the *Bulletin*. Mullin called the Board's attention, also, to a newly published book on irises sent to him by the author in the hope that the *Bulletin* might carry a review of the book. After discussion, the consensus was that the editor should inform the author that it is the Board's policy not to publish book reviews.

Mullin asked that his report for the Honorary Awards committee be deferred until later in the meeting.

Judges and Judges Training Chairman Crick presented statistics and changes in the judges roster and recommended approval of the 1990 roster of judges. Lineberger moved that the list be approved as presented. Gates seconded. The motion passed. The new roster includes 451 Garden Judges and 20 new Master Judges. The new Master Judges are as follows:

Region 1	Robert Sobek
Region 4	Richard Sparling
	David Walsh
Region 6	Mrs. Otho Boone
	Mrs. William T. Rhodes

Region 7	Mrs. Donald R. King
Region 8	Mrs. Wilbert G. Sindt
Region 9	Donovan Albers
Region 13	Patricia Adams Warren Noyes
Region 14	James P. McWhirter Capt. M. C. Osborne
Region 15	Janice Chesnik
Region 16	Verna Laurin
Region 18	Dolores Denney Mrs. Edwin Knight
Region 22	L. D. Stayer Mrs. L. D. Stayer
Region 23	Mrs. Roger Figge Janice M. Wilson

Mullin was asked to report for the committee appointed to study the status of Master Judges. The proposal presented was that there be two classes of Master Judges: 1) Retired Master Judges, who would be inactive and would not receive a ballot. A Retired Master Judge could be used as a show judge if needed by a show committee, assigned to a panel with an Accredited or Master Judge. 2) (Regular) Master Judges, who would be active and would be required to have at least three hours of training every three years. There would be no change in the status of Emeritus Judges. These changes would become effective January 1, 1991. Crick moved that this proposal be accepted. Niswonger seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Crick wished to further clarify this proposal, and she was asked to present a written motion later in the meeting.

Policy Committee Chairman Barr reported on the progress of entering past policy decisions into the computer for reference. Two requests for information had been made since the last Board meeting, and information asked for had been called up and printed out. The chairman brought some printouts by subject matter for committee chairmen and officers to see how the information could be used.

Public Relations Chairman Rice-Waters stated that the new calendars are out and emphasized that the calendars are published not just for AIS members but as a promotional tool to attract new members. She urged everyone to buy them in the wholesale packs and take them to book stores and nurseries which might use them as sales items. Everyone is urged to buy post cards, also, as production on a new set of post cards will not start until the present supply is depleted. Rice-Waters distributed copies of a progress report on the Species Iris Flyer, and she spoke of publicity generated by articles in *Modern Maturity* and *Sunset Magazine* and by the AIS Display Screen.

There was no report from the Registrations Committee.

A report from Robins Chairman Badger was read noting that there are 505 members, with 52 flights in 18 divisions.

RVP Counselor Maculak stated at this time only that he writes regularly to the RVPs, with continuing good relations and communication.

Scholarship Chairman Gristwood reported that 140 scholarship applications had been sent out and 16 replies received. The recipient for this year is Todd Stanislav, from the University of Kansas, who has sent acknowledgements of funds received to Treasurer Corlew and Chairman Gristwood and who should be present at the meeting later in the day.

Barr read a letter from Scientific Committee Chairman McEwen in which he stated that there had again been an expression of interest from the North Shore Iris and Daylily Society (Chicago) to consider making an additional grant in support of activities of the Scientific Committee. McEwen commented further in the letter than the book on Japanese irises, mentioned in the report of Foundation Liaison Pettijohn, is in the hands of the University Press of New England and is expected to be out well in time for the AIS convention in the spring, with copies of the book available there. He spoke also of the convention of the Society for Japanese Irises to be held in Maine in July, 1990.

Section Liaison Lineberger reported increased membership in the sections and spoke of the importance, already mentioned earlier by Editor Mullin, of getting information about new section officers, etc., to the president, the secretary and the *Bulletin* editor. Lineberger stated also that a proposal for a new section will be brought before the meeting later in the day.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:45 AM, to reconvene at 1:15 PM.

There was no report from the Slides Committee except that President Rasmussen stated that there had been a request recently from the Italian Iris Society for two sets of slides.

Youth Committee Chairman Gates spoke about the need for enthusiastic youth advisors on both the regional and the local level, leaders willing to plan events to keep the interest of the young members. Youth membership fluctuates, but there have been no big changes of late.

Reports of special committees followed. For the Committee to Study Inter-relations within the AIS, Chairman Stahly was unable to attend, but Rasmussen pointed out that study by this committee is dependent on study being carried out by Attorney Spain. The latter study has not been completed as yet; presently under scrutiny are the relationships between the AIS and the AIS Foundation and between the AIS and the sections.

Speaking again for Stahly as chairman of the Color Pattern Definition Committee, Rasmussen stated that the definition of "luminata" had already been approved by the Board; other definitions are being studied. The results will ultimately be published in the *Bulletin*.

It was announced at this time that Clarence Mahan will be chairman for the 1991 convention in Washington, D.C.

Under unfinished business, there was discussion about the revision of *Basic Iris Culture*. Rice-Waters moved, Waite seconded, that there be a reprint of 5,000 copies of the present booklet, in order to insure the supply and allow time for a revision. The motion passed.

Rasmussen distributed copies of a report and a proposal from Norlan Henderson, who has been continuing the research begun by Homer Metcalf. Dr. Henderson outlined modest expenditures of \$244.85 incurred while working on the AIS study, and in his proposal asked that a small fund of perhaps \$100. be set aside for copies and books as needed. Dr. Henderson asked also for suggestions on how the information gained from this project can be used to the best advantage and for plans to be made about what should be done with this material when he is no longer able to take care of it. Rasmussen expressed his own interest in the project and offered to remain in contact with Dr. Henderson and others involved in the study.

Crick presented a motion to be added to the one passed earlier regarding Master Judge status: Master Judges shall be required to complete an annual activity report in addition to the requirement pertaining to training. Retired Master Judges may ask to rejoin the list of Master Judges. Such requests shall be honored if the judge has completed the required training and also completes the region's current activity report. Requests for changes from Retired Master Judge to Master Judge are to be made through the region's RVP and/or regional Judges Training Chairman. Copeland seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rasmussen showed everyone the Native American Iris brochure (flyer) which he and Rice-Waters have worked on for some time as an advertisement for the hoped-for 75th anniversary stamp. Rasmussen outlined plans to contact congressmen and the Postal Service to accomplish this purpose.

A preview video of the 1990 convention gardens was shown to all those present at this time.

Following the video presentation, Todd Stanislav, recipient of the AIS scholarship, spoke briefly.

There was a fifteen-minute break at 2:45 PM, following which out-going President Rasmussen gave a few farewell remarks and welcomed Kenneth Waite as the new president. Waite thanked Rasmussen and presented him a Lifetime membership in the society.

Before proceeding with the election of officers, the new president spoke briefly of the following goals: to continue to keep the budget of the society within its income, to proceed with the updating of the Judges Handbook, and to make plans for the observance of the 75th anniversary of the AIS which will occur in 1995.

Waite then called for the election of officers. Rice-Waters nominated Barr for First Vice President. Corlew seconded. Rasmussen moved that nominations cease and Barr be elected by acclamation. Lineberger seconded. The motion carried.

Lineberger nominated Copeland for Second Vice President. Rice-Waters seconded. Corlew moved that nominations cease and Copeland be elected by acclamation. Barr seconded. The motion carried.

Rasmussen nominated Stayer for Secretary. Rice-Waters seconded. Niswonger moved that nominations cease and Stayer be elected by acclamation. Corlew seconded. The motion carried.

Barr nominated Glenn Corlew for Treasurer. Gristwood seconded. Niswonger moved that nominations cease and Corlew be elected by acclamation. Copeland seconded. The motion carried.

Rice-Waters nominated Mullin for Editor. Gates seconded. Corlew moved that nominations cease and Mullin be elected by acclamation. Rasmussen seconded. The motion carried.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session to consider the report of the Honorary Awards Committee, and reconvened after dinner at 8:00 P.M.

President Waite announced that upon the recommendation of the Honorary Awards Committee Distinguished Service Medals had been awarded to James Burch and Kay Nelson.

Waite appointed the following officers:

Registrar—Kay Nelson
Membership Secretary—Marilyn Harlow
Publication Sales Director—C. J. Lack
Recording Secretary—Claire Barr
Advertising Editor—Kay Nelson
Photo Coordinator—Larry Stayer

Corlew moved, Niswonger seconded, that these appointments be approved. The motion passed.

RVP Counselor Machulak recommended for reappointment the following RVPs:

(having served two years)

Reg. 7 Joseph Christopher
10 Mrs. Ed Ostheimer
13 Barbara Aitken
15 Ralph Strane
16 John McMillen
24 Sarah Scruggs

(having served one year)

Reg. 3 Sterling Innerst
6 Carol Morgan
8 Dr. Donald Koza
9 Melody Wilhoit
11 Rose Mary Baier
12 Paul J. Smith
14 James P. McWhirter
18 Leda Christlieb
22 Mrs. J. H. Jamieson

Copeland moved, Rice-Waters seconded, that these reappointments be approved. The motion carried.

Machulak then recommended the following new RVPs:

Region 1 Mrs. Maurice B. Pope, Jr.
2 Carl M. O'Shea
4 Mrs. Andrew Warner

- 5 Mrs. A. D. Wilder
- 17 Jim Keefe
- 19 Betty Lou McMartin
- 20 David G. Miller
- 21 Opal Wulf
- 23 Doug Goodnight

Crick moved that the recommended appointments be approved. Corlew seconded, and the motion carried.

Waite appointed the following committee chairmen:

Affiliates—O. D. Niswonger	Public Relations—Olive Rice-Waters
Awards—James Copeland	Registrations—Kay Nelson
Convention Liaison—Phillip Williams	Robins—Emma Hobbs
Exhibitions—Lillian Gristwood	RVP Counselor—Walter Machulak
Foundation Liaison—Richard Pettijohn	Scholarship—Catherine Long Gates
Historical—Larry Harder	Scientific—Currier McEwen
Honorary Awards—James Rasmussen	Section Liaison—Everette Lineberger
Judges and Judges Training—Hilda Crick	Slides—Howard Shockey
Membership Contest—Lucy Fry	Youth—Catherine Long Gates
Policy—Claire Barr	

Machulak moved that the foregoing appointments be approved. Gates seconded. The motion passed.

Next on the agenda was the Standard Banking Resolution for change of officers. Stayer stated that she has all the papers and cards which need signatures. This matter can be taken care of immediately after the meeting.

Waite stated that there had been a request for section status from the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS). Lineberger presented a proposal to this effect, telling the Board briefly of the preparations made by HIPS in order to become a section. Lineberger recommended to the Board that the Historic Iris Preservation Society be given section status. Niswonger seconded. Anne Lowe, president of the society and editor of *Roots*, its publication, spoke about the 245 members of HIPS, of the writing of the bylaws, and of some of the society's goals. The question was called for and the motion was approved. The Historic Iris Preservation Society was welcomed as a new section of the AIS.

Waite called on the new Membership Contest Chairman, Lucy Fry, who presented the rules for the 1990 Membership Contest. Of particular interest is a special category which will recognize the youth member recruiting the greatest number of new youth members and/or adult members. Points for new youth memberships will be awarded to youth recruiters *only*. After the rules and point structure were read, Gates moved, Copeland seconded, that the new guidelines be approved. The motion carried. The complete proposal will be published in the *Bulletin*. It was noted that "Invitation to Join" brochures may be obtained from Gristwood (for shows) and from Stayer, and membership flyers from Rice-Waters.

Stayer read letters from Herman Dennis, a member of the Tidewater Iris Society of Virginia Beach, VA, Region 4, and from a representative of the Norfolk Botanical Garden, concerning their wish to establish AIS-sanctioned test gardens or public gardens at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. After discussion, it was the consensus that the AIS should reaffirm its policy of not sanctioning test gardens or public gardens.

A letter from Region 13 was read asking permission for or opinions about adding one extra day to the AIS convention schedule for 1994. There was much discussion, with the feeling that it is not the policy of the Board to tell the committee about the number of days for a convention, nor is there any ruling about this subject, though the committee might wish to consider the financial impact of such a move.

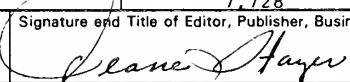
Stayer read a letter from RVP McWhirter, of Region 14, in which he issued an invitation from Region 14 to the AIS to hold its 1996 convention in Region 14, with headquarters likely to be in Sacramento. Barr moved, Stayer seconded, that the invitation be accepted. The motion carried.

The next item was the proposed budget. During discussion Corlew moved that the "P & H allocation" under "Sales Director", page 5, be increased from 15% to 20%. Stayer seconded. The motion carried. After further deliberation by the Board and some changes, Machulak moved that the proposed budget be accepted as amended. Rasmussen seconded. The motion carried.

Waite announced that the spring meeting will be in Omaha, Nebraska, at the Holiday Inn Central, May 20 to 24, 1990. The 1990 fall meeting will be in Dallas, Texas, November 2 to 4.

Waite expressed the appreciation of everyone present to the Wichita Area Iris Society for their warm hospitality and excellent planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

U.S. Postal Service STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION <small>Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685</small>									
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7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Item must be completed.)									
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No stockholders--dues paying members only									
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Full Name					Complete Mailing Address				
None									
9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates (DMM Section 423.12 only) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (Check one)									
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months					(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)				
10. Extent and Nature of Circulation (See instructions on reverse side)					Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months		Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date		
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)					7,728		8,040		
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation									
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales									
2. Mail Subscription (Paid and/or requested)					6,799		7,134		
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)					6,799		7,134		
D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies					66		127		
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)					6,865		7,261		
F. Copies Not Distributed									
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing					863		779		
2. Return from News Agents									
G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F1 and 2--should equal net press run shown in A)					7,728		8,040		
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete					Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  Jeane Stayer, Secretary AIS				

**THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONDENSED
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1989**

CASH IN BANK, SEPTEMBER 30, 1988

Operating Funds	76,048	
Restricted Funds	106,827	182,875

INCOME, 10-1-88 to 9-30-89

118,627

EXPENSE, 10-1-88 to 9-30-89

– 134,406

167,096

CASH IN BANK, SEPTEMBER 30, 1989

Operating Funds	52,051	
Restricted Funds	115,045	

167,096

INCOME

Membership Dues		48,238	
Bulletin			
Advertising	13,429		
Back Issues	434		
Other	– 57	13,806	
Registrations		3,574	
Sales			
AIS Publications	12,371		
Other Books & Mdse.	7,634	23,005	
Committees		10,488	
Sections Dues		2,665	
Gifts		3,358	
Earned Interest		12,378	
Other		1,115	<u>118,627</u>

EXPENSE

Bulletin		56,354	
Secretary		1,095	
Membership Secretary		9,246	
Registrar		3,179	
Sales Director			
AIS Publications	12,263		
Other Books & Mdse.	14,416		
General Expense	1,760	28,439	
Other Officers		1,063	
Committees		16,895	
RVP Expenses		777	
Section Dues		2,915	
Accounting & Insurance		6,871	
Other		7,572	<u>134,406</u>

Authorized Salaried Personnel:

Advertising Editor	3,000
Editor	2,850
Membership Secretary	2,850
Registrar-Recorder	<u>3,000</u>

KEITH KEPPEL

P.O. BOX 8173

STOCKTON, CA 95208

1990 Introductions

- ABSTRACT ART (Keppel) M 32" (Gigolo X Change of Heart sib) Ruffly orange-ground plic, dotted and washed purplish rose. #82-13T \$30.00
- BLUE BALLET (Keppel) EM 34" (Armada sib X sib) Heavily ruffled bicolor plic with icy blue standards; white-blazed falls have wide dark lavender blue band. #83-3B \$35.00
- DESIGNING WOMAN (Gatty) EML 36" ((Pretty Lady x (Nefertiti x Playgirl)) X Presence) Vigorous rosy lilac with falls paling to pearly lavender lilac; smoky salmon coral beards. #S25-1 \$35.00
- FLORAL CHIFFON (Gatty) ML 34" (Quiet Moment X (Paradise x (Valentina x (Pink Sleigh x Liz)))) Opalescent peach pink with creamier falls, lilac cast in standards. #P41-1A \$30.00
- GALLANT ROGUE (Blyth) ML 37" (Tomorrow's Child X Magic Man) Bold bicolor with light lilac standards, plush blackish red falls, and bright red orange beards \$35.00
- MAHARISHI (Keppel) M 35" ((Rancho Rose x (Flamenco sib x (Roundup sib x April Melody))) X Rustic Dance) Creamy salmon ground plic, the falls with a wide soft rosy grape border. #82-39B \$35.00
- OPPORTUNITY (Keppel) EM-42" (Orangerie X Praline) Vibrant dandelion gold, flared, laced, and strongly ruffled. Medium large flowers in profusion. #82-87B \$30.00
- WILDEST DREAMS (Keppel) EM 30" (Abstract Art sib) Salmon peach ground, flushed and washed red purple, with hafts almost solid. Moderate size. #82-13K \$30.00

Border Bearded

- FAUX PAS (Keppel) EM 25" (Shenanigan X Change of Heart) Broad and heavily ruffled, with peach standards and falls washed rosy orchid. #84-47A \$20.00

Intermediate Bearded

- BROADWAY BABY (Gatty) M 24" (Muchacha X Broadway) Bronzy tan standards, warm white falls with wide oxblood fall band. #P56-1 \$15.00
- CANDY FLOSS (Keppel) E & RE 21" (Nazette X ((Anon x Prediction sib) x (Flamenco sib x (Roundup sib x April Melody)))) Peach standards, ivory falls edged peach, plus faint lavender plic suffusion. Broad, very ruffled. #84-1Q \$15.00
- NECTAR (Keppel) EM 23" (Candy Floss sib) Heavily ruffled apricot tan and soft yellow plicata blend. #84-1X \$15.00
- TRIVIA (Keppel) M 23" (Logo X Shenanigan) Upright coffee buff standards, flared falls heavily washed burgundy. Terra cotta beards. #84-8D .. \$15.00

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Albuquerque, NM 87107

1990 INTRODUCTIONS

Pictured on Inside Front Cover

SNOW MOON (H. Shockey) TB M 34" White stds. with bright yellow falls edged lighter, golden beards. Broad petals have heavy substance. Sdlg. #85-233-A: 81-213-G (inv. Gay Parasol, Modern Venus, Lady of Spain, Java Dove, Sunlit Lace, Ruffled Apache and Whole Cloth) X Borderline \$30.00

TURKISH HEART (H. Shockey) AB 1/2 (OGB) E 28". Near amoena of bright citrine yellow—large, sharply defined, heart-shaped signals of brown black. Fertile both ways with other 1/2-breds. Sdlg. 86-140-L \$25.00

TURKISH PENDANT (H. Shockey) AB 1/2 (OGB) E 28". White stds. are lightly flushed orchid violet. Rich yellow falls. Large, sharply defined half-moon signals of brown black. Fertile both ways with other 1/2-breds. Sdlg. 86-144-S \$25.00

Both Arilbreds for \$40.00

Previous Introductions—Tall Bearded

CRYSTAL DREAMS '89. Gorgeous pink blend with violet edging on standards—cerise beards tipped 1/2" blue \$24.00

PARFAIT DELIGHT '88. Peach stds., white falls rimmed apricot—cerise beards. Very vigorous \$16.00

GYPSY SKIRT '87. Coral pink and burgundy plicata—purple based fans \$12.00

SHALAKO '84. Bright yellow and mahogany plicata. HM '88. \$6.00

Previous Introductions—Arilbred

PERSIAN PADISHAH '88. AB 3/4 (OGB +). Broad ruffled medium maroon purple—large purple black signals \$15.00

SYRIAN PRINCESS '88. AB 3/4 (OGB +). Near white and beige bicolor—large brown black signals \$15.00

SYRIAN JEWEL '87. AB 3/4 (OGB +). Luscious pale rose burgundy—large purple black signals. Top HM '89 in its class. \$12.00

Please order by August 1. Aug. 1-15 AIRMAIL shipment included.

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AND
POPE'S PERENNIALS

SIBERIAN IRISES

JAPANESE IRISES

JAPANESE IRIS INTRODUCTIONS - 1990

EXUBERANT CHANTEY: Diploid, 6 falls, E-EL and repeats. The round, velvety, ruffled 8-9" flowers are selfs of dark blue-violet (darker than RHS-89A but closer to 88A in color). Its 37" stalks have 2 branches and 5 buds, and it repeats exuberantly. Fine parent. 80/165 (a seedling repeater) X self. **\$25**

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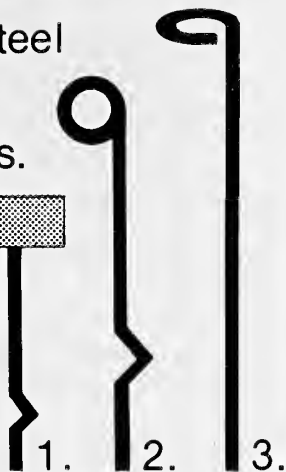
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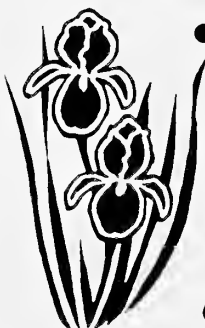
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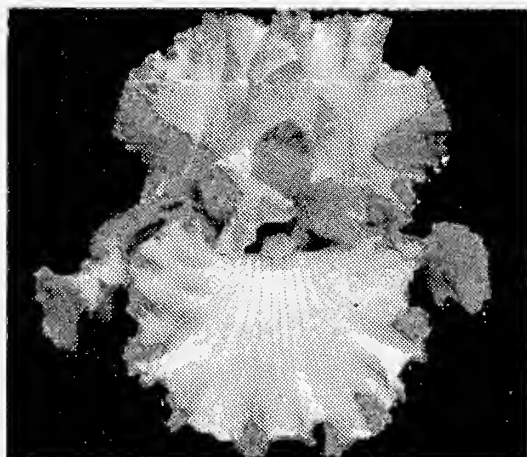
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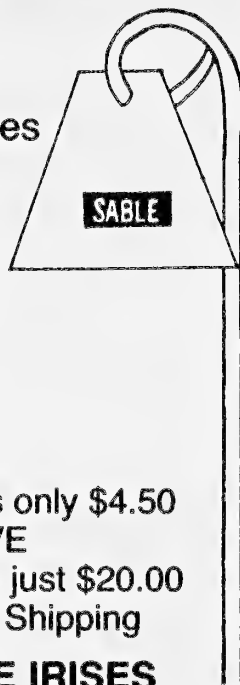
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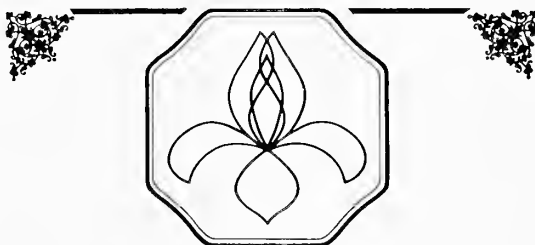
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Ms. Kay Nelson, Advertising Editor
P.O. Box 37613 Omaha, NE 68137

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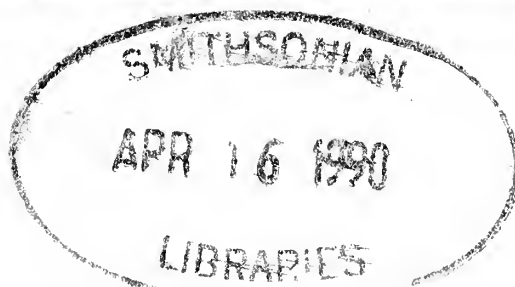
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Number 277 April 1990



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**BULLETIN
OF THE
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Distinguished Service Medals Awarded	6
James G. Burch, Kay Nelson	7
New Director—Dave Niswonger	8
New Membership Secretary—Marilyn Harlow	9
New RVPs	10
1992 Request for Guest Irises	17
Iris Roundup '93—Guest Beardless Irises	18
Ruth Holleyman	Sam Norris
The Luminata Color Pattern	21
Stahly, Keppel, Nelson	21
Membership Notebooks	Sharon McAllister
Hybridizing at Meadowbrook Gardens	22
Audrey Machulak	25
Suky Mahan	28
Lavone Ney	30
Diana Nicholls	32
The Future of Arils is with the	
Tetraploids	Jerry Simmons
1989 Season Remembered	33
Ronald Mullin	34
The Origins of Remontancy	Clarence Mahan
Southeast Texas Ramblings Among	
Louisiana Irises	45
Albert Faggard	45
Hybridizing with Unusual Members of	
Hexagonae	Joe Mertzweiller
Iris Postmark Available	48
Jerry Cathey	48
Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Garden ..	Mike Moller
69	69

Regular Features

President's Desk	3	AIS slides	64
Membership Rates	4	Gifts to AIS	65
Contribution Information	4	In Memoriam	66
Advertising Rates	115	Bulletin Board	68
Youth Views	33	Commercial Directory	104
AIS Sales Items	49	Advertisers this issue	115

FRONT COVER: On the cover is the Dykes Medal Winner STEPPING OUT (Schreiners '64). This iris first appeared on the Popularity Poll in 1966 in tenth place. By 1968, it was in first place. As the decade of the 90's begins, STEPPING OUT is still in the top five after spending nearly two decades in first place. This certainly qualifies it as a classic.



From the Desk of the President

Kenneth Waite

Indeed, it is the time of year that we have all been anticipating, spring and iris time! Some are awaiting the first blossom to appear, others are already enjoying the glories of iris bloom. It had been a most unusual winter throughout the country and we pondered if the weather conditions would have an adverse effect on the gardens. Happily, in most cases, it did not.

We have entered a new decade, 1990 being the 70th anniversary of the founding of the American Iris Society. Great progress has been made, not only in the advancement of the genus *Iris* but in AIS, also. We are indebted to the predecessors for their foresight, services and contributions. Future advancement will depend on continued cooperation of members and administrators.

Thank you for your patience during the transfer of the Membership Secretary office from Wichita to San Jose. Both the new and former secretaries are congratulated for executing this complicated change with minimal interruptions.

New committee chairpersons are adapting well to the duties of their offices. Your continued cooperation is appreciated. Please note especially the change in Affiliates, Awards, Exhibitions, Robins, Membership Contest, Honorary Awards, and Scholarship committees. They are found in the listing of Standing Committee Chairmen.

AIS can be proud of the work the Youth/Scholarship Committee has been doing since its inception in 1986. Todd Stanislav, University of Kansas, the current recipient visited the fall board meeting to express appreciation for the assistance he is receiving as he works toward his post-graduate degree. Those present were much impressed by his knowledge and sincerity.

The HISTORIC IRIS PRESERVATION SOCIETY (HIPS), the newest section of AIS, is to be commended for their efforts to locate and preserve many of the older iris varieties so important in the advancement to today's glories. It fills a need that has long existed and is a welcome addition to the section program.

There is little doubt that many of you have enjoyed the video preview of the fast approaching '90 convention in Omaha and your enthusiasm has been aroused to attend. The Convention Committee has been laboring to make

'Prairie in Bloom' a memorable event. You are encouraged to attend the meeting of the Board of Directors, and your officers anticipate meeting you there.

AIS MEMBERSHIP RATES

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Historic Iris Preservation Society	3.00	7.50	4.00	10.00

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AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY FOUNDATION: Send to AIS Foundation, Richard T. Pettijohn, Treasurer, 2510 S. 148th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68144. Donations to the Foundation and AIS are tax deductible.

Note: please include name and address of next-of-kin pertaining to memorial gifts, so that a card of acknowledgment may be sent. Checks should be payable to the American Iris Society or the American Iris Society Foundation.

Distinguished Service Medals Awarded To Kay Nelson and Jimmy Burch

At the meeting of the Board of Directors in Wichita, two loyal servants of the American Iris Society were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. This award is given upon unanimous approval of the Board of Directors.

Kay Nelson, who prepares the copy for all advertising in the AIS Bulletin and prepares the annual Registrations and Introductions book and the Checklist each ten years, is one of the most dedicated workers in AIS. Jimmy Burch served the society as a director, as chairman of the 1979 Convention in Huntsville, and as a non-paid Membership Secretary for the society.



Kay Nelson



James G. Burch

JAMES G. BURCH

Jimmy Burch is a native of North Carolina where his mother introduced him to irises with the "flags" she grew in her garden. Jimmy obtained his first irises from Frances Schultz and Ruth Fletcher, longtime AIS members, and he joined the AIS after entering irises in the Huntsville show.

An honors graduate of the University of Alabama at Huntsville, he is employed as a Logistician by the U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command. His work takes him to many parts of the country, and he often uses any extra time he may have in some distant city to present judging schools, visit local gardens, and spread good will for the iris society.

His good friend, the late Bill Bledsoe, taught him how to hybridize irises, and he has produced some seedlings which went on to win awards. FROSTY JEWELS was selected as the President's Cup winner at the 1979 Huntsville Convention.

Jimmy served as RVP of Region 24 and has served in many positions in Region 24 and with local clubs. He maintains an iris garden on virgin land which was purchased for the purpose of growing irises. His wife, Betty, and daughter, Carol, are his helpers and partners in the iris garden, but the hybridizing is left up to Jimmy.

Like most irisarians, Jimmy can point to many people who helped and encouraged him when he first became involved with his hobby. Of course, one of the most influential was Bill Bledsoe, but Jimmy also credits Evelyn Branumn with encouraging him when he first joined AIS.

Jimmy gives programs, writes articles, gives judging schools, and promotes irises as often as possible.

KAY NELSON

Kay could hardly escape from the world of irises, for she has been surrounded by irises and iris activities all her life. Her mother, Irene Nelson, grew irises in the family garden. Living in Omaha, they had easy access to the extensive Sass Iris Gardens. Kay's father, J. Arthur Nelson, joined in the iris activities, and he and Irene became charter members of the Greater Omaha Iris Society when it was formed in 1950. With Irene's keen interest in flower arranging and shows, it was natural that they worked on a color classification for shows and a color coding system for iris registrations that were used for many years. Art served on the AIS Board of Directors for many years and was Bulletin Editor from 1965 until his death in 1973.

One of four sisters, Kay graduated from Omaha Central High School where her father was principal. She attended Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska, and received her degree in business law from the University of Nebraska.

While her father was Bulletin Editor, she was his assistant, staying on as Assistant Editor for a couple of years after his death, until a permanent Editor was located. In 1972, she was named Registrar of AIS and for many years she

has been Advertising Editor for the Bulletin. She is employed as an Administrative Assistant for LeDioyt Land Company in Omaha.

Kay has three sons and a daughter. Drew, the oldest son, grew irises off and on while the family moved from Nebraska to Oklahoma to Texas and back to Nebraska. Youngest son Bob is known to many irisarians, as he has attended several national and regional conventions.



NEW DIRECTOR

DAVE NISWONGER

New Director, O. D. Niswonger, has been assigned as Director of Affiliates for the coming year. Dave has been interested in growing irises since 1952. He is a hybridizer and bloomed seedlings of his own crosses in 1954. He was awarded the Hybridizer's Medal in 1985. He served as RVP of Region 18 from 1980 through 1982 and is a past president of the Spuria Iris Society.

Dave married Marie Deneke, a school teacher, in 1948. He received a B.S. Degree with a major in Biology and Chemistry from SEMO University in Cape Girardeau and received his Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is currently the Hospital Administrator at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau where he has worked the past 29 years.

Dave and Marie have three children, two sons and a daughter, plus three grandchildren. All three of the children have their birthdates on the same day, February 25.

Dave has horticultural interests in nut trees, hollies, daffodils, daylilies, dahlias, gladioli, and, of course, irises including the medians, tall bearded, Siberians, rebloomers, some of the species, and spurias.

Dave has registered and introduced 67 tall bearded among which were awards of merit for RASPBERRY RIPPLES, LILAC TREAT, and EVERYTHING PLUS; 4 border bearded of which RASPBERRY SUNDAE and MARMALADE SKIES won the Knowlton Medal; 3 intermediates of which HONEY GLAZED was awarded the Sass Medal for 1989; 12 standard dwarf bearded of which LITTLE BLACKBELT and RASPBERRY JAM won the Cook-Douglas Medal with LITTLE ANNIE, AZTEC STAR and KAYO winning Awards of Merit; and 27 spurias of which BUTTERED CHOCOLATE won the 1980 Nies Award.

Dave also introduced 11 irises for Gene Buckles, including a border bearded iris selected and named after Gene Buckles' death as BROWN LASSO, which won the 1981 Dykes Medal. He also introduced three irises for the late Truman Gladish.

Dave has non-gardening interests which include his activities in the Methodist Church as lay leader, Sunday School teacher, President of the Board, and President of Methodist Men. He has served on the Board of the Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri Affiliate of the American Heart Association, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and is a past president of the Rotary Club of Cape Girardeau. He is also interested in hunting, fishing, and genealogy research when time permits.



Marilyn Harlow

New Membership Secretary

MARILYN HARLOW

Born in Bedford, Indiana, Marilyn moved to Arizona in the late 1940's with her family in search of a drier climate to ease her allergies and asthma. She is the mother of one daughter, Deborah, and three sons, Stephen, Brad and William. They have presented her with five grandchildren, soon to be six. They reside in Southern California, Arizona and Indiana.

Marilyn has gardened in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona again and finally, California. In the early 1970's a visit to a local iris show, encouragement from longtime Arizona Irisarians Genevieve Jasper and Elsa McLean, coupled with a mail order catalog and gardening space, was all it took to get started on the iris trail. She was active in the Tucson Area Iris Society for many years, serving in every capacity except that of Vice-President. Since moving to California in 1986, she has held the office of Secretary in the Clara B. Rees Iris Society of San Jose, was co-editor with Carole Vossen of the Aril Society International Yearbooks for 1987 and 1988. More recently she is serving as Vice Chairman and Judges Training Chairman of Region 14. Marilyn has served as an accredited judge of the American Iris Society since 1978 and enjoys traveling as much as possible to gardens of local, regional and national interest. Pollendaubing, the latest iris interest, has provided several reblooming seedlings worth watching.

Combining office skills with the trend of computers, Marilyn manages a busy commercial iris garden, is advertising manager for Pacific Horticulture Magazine, and still finds time to do favorite things such as travel, amateur family genealogy, stamp collecting, reading and counted cross stitch.

NEW RVPs

REGION 4 Carol Warner

Carol Seabrease Warner (Mrs. Andrew C. Warner) balances her time between her garden, family, teaching and Iris Society activities. Her husband, Andy, works in engineering test for Black and Decker. Carol and Andy have two sons; Andrew, a freshman at Lehigh University and Jeffrey, a sophomore at Hereford High School. The Warners live in upper Baltimore County, Maryland, where they built their home in 1970 on 9 acres of her parents' farm.

Carol graduated from the University of Maryland in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education. She taught home economics for five years and is presently teaching at Hereford High School.

Carol joined AIS in 1976, was president of Francis Scott Key Iris Society, and is an AIS judge. Most recently she has been Judges Training Chairman, and Beardless and Species Iris Chairman for Region Four. She is also the Treasurer and Membership Secretary for the Society for Japanese Irises. Carol is a member of the Rhododendron and Daffodil Societies and a member of two garden clubs.

The Warner garden, Draycott, will be one of the tour gardens for the 1991 National AIS Convention. The landscaped gardens contain many types of irises and other perennials, shrubs and trees.

REGION 5

Ruth Wilder

Ruth Wilder (Mrs. A. D.) is a native South Carolinian. She grew up in Anderson, and after graduating from Anderson College, moved to Columbia where she studied nursing and graduated from South Carolina Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. She also has a B.S. in Elementary Education from Athens College in Alabama.

Ruth moved to Huntsville, Alabama, in 1956 to accept a position as a supervisor at Huntsville Hospital and was active in her profession until six years ago when she retired. While in Huntsville she was a member of both Huntsville and North Alabama Iris Societies and has served two terms as president in each group. Her garden was on tour during the 1979 AIS Convention. She also met and was married to Archie in Huntsville.

Her interest in irises goes back further than Huntsville, for her mother was also a lover of irises and grew both Tall Bearded and Siberian. She was Miss "Miss Nellie."

Since moving back to Anderson some four years ago after Archie died, Ruth has been active in Region 5 and is currently in the process of helping to get a new club organized in the Anderson Area. Currently there are about twenty interested members.

Her other activities include serving as an officer in the Spuria Section and as secretary of the Siberian Section and as an active member of Anderson Garden Club. Siberians, Spurias, Japanese, Louisiana, Species as well as the bearded irises are growing in her back yard garden.

REGION 17

Jim Keefe

Jim is a third generation native Texan. He was reared in the Gulf Coast area of Texas and Louisiana and earned his BS in Pharmacy from the University of Texas at Austin in 1967. He and his wife Sue, also a UT Austin graduate, have been growing irises in their gardens in Midland for several years. Their eight year old son, Graham, is also an enthusiastic iris grower and exhibitor. Jim has been an active member and officer of the West Texas Iris Society and is a charter member and past officer of the Permian Basin Iris Society. He currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Louisiana Iris Section of AIS. His wife Sue is the immediate past assistant RVP of Region 17. Both Jim and Sue are AIS judges. Graham delights in iris rhizome auctions and loves Spring because "that's when my irises bloom".

Jim and his family grow a variety of irises but particularly enjoy Arils, Arilbreds and the challenge of growing Louisianas in the arid climate of West Texas.

Jim plans, during his term as RVP, to encourage enthusiastic AIS membership in Region 17 and emphasize the pure fun of activities related to growing irises.

NEW RVPs



Shirley Pope



Carol Warner

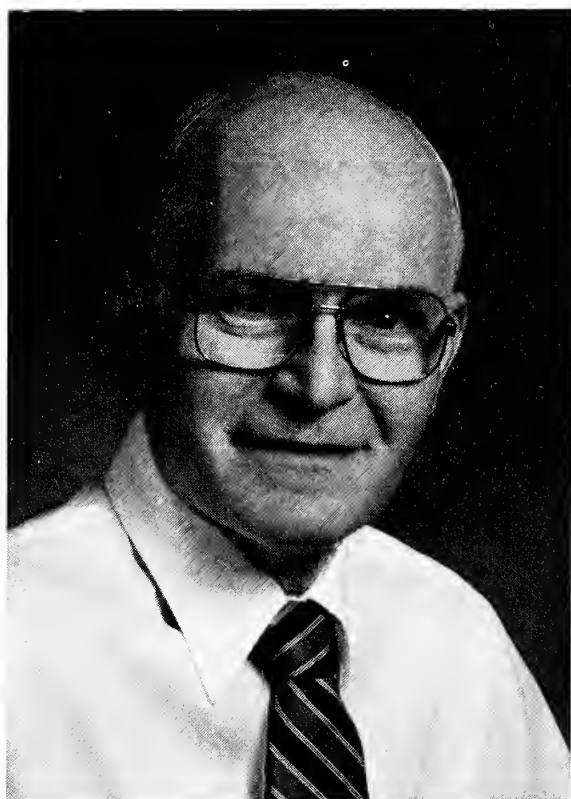


Ruth Wilder



Opal Wulf

NEW RVPs



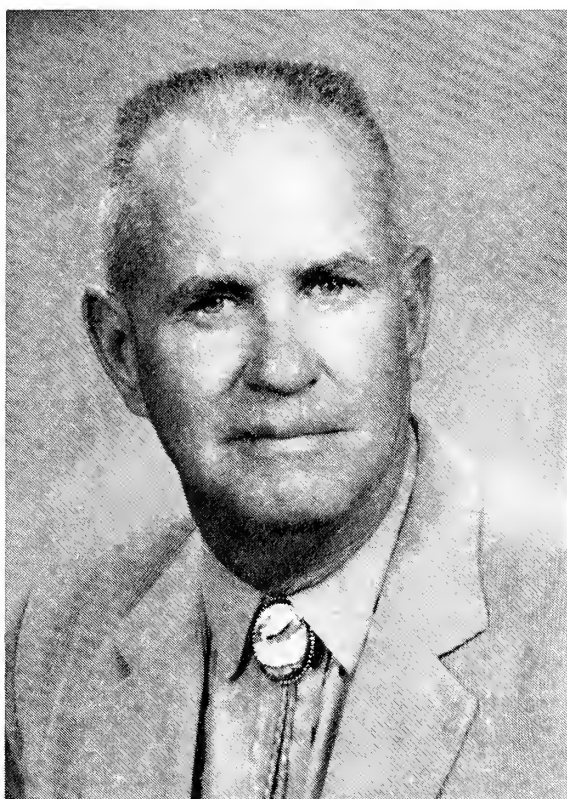
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David Miller



Carl O'Shea



Doug Goodnight

REGION 1

Mrs. Maurice B. (Shirley) Pope, Jr.

Shirley Pope has always lived in Maine. Growing up on a farm provided her with an above-average feeling for the soil, but little, if any, interest in any kind of flowers. Since 1957 she and husband Maurice have lived in the town of Gorham, Maine.

Sometime in the late 60's a neighbor lady insisted that Shirley go with her to see a lovely garden belonging to an elderly man on the next street. A rainbow of tall bearded irises at peak bloom brought forth immediate and genuine applause from Shirley. She was unable to convince the gentleman that she really had no desire to grow flowers. He insisted upon giving her a variety of rhizomes when he next divided. Reluctantly, she planted them and the rest is history.

Within a few years she became active in the Maine Iris Society. Upon first exhibiting, she won "Best of Show" with "Benton Olive", one of the "older" irises given to her by the insistent gardener on the next street!

While Shirley was President of the Maine Iris Society, she became acquainted with Dr. Currier McEwen. About the same time she started Pope's Perennials, a home business serving to support her rapidly growing iris hobby.

In 1985, having been honored by Dr. McEwen with a Siberian Iris bearing her name, she agreed to introduce and market his irises for him.

Although Shirley has come to love all types of irises, today she specializes in Siberian, Japanese and Median varieties, raising them along with other choice perennial plants and selected shrubs for personal pleasure.

Shirley and Maurice have one daughter, Viola, who lives and practices her profession of nursing in Denmark. Viola has also presented them with Martin, their only grandson.

Shirley feels that her deep interest in irises has been a tremendous help in maintaining her health, in spite of adversities. Her participation continues in a number of iris organizations and her interest grows with the years.

REGION 20 David Miller

Dave Miller was born and raised on a farm in the southern part of Colorado. His interests in gardening started at an early age because his parents always had a large vegetable garden. Not only that, but his Mother also had a few flowers around, and of course, an "old blue iris" always did well.

Shortly after high school, Dave entered the Army and served in the Infantry in Viet Nam. After the Army, he settled in the Denver Area. He met his wife, Ann, and they purchased a small house on a small lot because "he really didn't want to do much yard work".

It wasn't long until that old gardening flame was burning brightly again. It was actually his wife who reintroduced him to irises. A friend took her to a

commercial garden, and she came home raving. That evening, they returned to the garden, and he became forever hooked.

Within a couple of years, both the house and the lot were just too small. Daughter Hallie has entered the picture as have many varieties of irises. A larger house on a larger lot was purchased, as well as more varieties. After a few years, son Kurt entered the picture as did more varieties.

Today, Dave is an electrician, is now a judge, has started hybridizing, and has been the Region 20 Show Chairman for the past 3 years. Ann, a very tolerant "iris" wife, enjoys cooking and sewing. Hallie is now 11, a sixth grader, active in softball and basketball, and a Youth member with her own expanding collection. Kurt, almost 6, a "kiddie-gardener," loves corn on the cob as much as Dave, and this past year, received his first iris. The Miller's have recently purchased 2½ acres and are building a new home. The last one was plenty big enough, but that lot was just too small!

REGION 21 Opal Wulf

Opal Wulf was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. She cannot remember when her love of irises began, but it must have been at an early age—maybe when she was about five years old. At that time, she picked some irises to give to her mother. Unfortunately, they had to be returned because they had been taken from a neighbor's garden without permission. Her discomfort in this situation did not diminish her love for the "rainbow" flower.

When Opal and her husband Henry moved to an acreage in 1977, their first priority was to plant trees. Next on the list was to do landscaping around their home. She knew they needed some spectacular flowers to produce just the right flare of color. Some kind soul told Opal about Allan Ensminger's iris gardens. You can guess the rest.

Now, many iris beds later, Opal admits that her "love of irises has assumed run away proportions." Besides their own varieties, the Wulfs are playing host to nearly 300 additional guest irises because their gardens are part of the 1990 AIS convention tour in May. In addition to her labors of love caring for her irises, Opal is RVP of Region 21 and co-chair, with Henry, of the 1990 AIS Convention Committee. She feels that life will calm down after May, but between January and June, Opal says, her theme song is, "I'll get by with a little help from my friends."

Opal co-owns an insurance brokerage business which keeps her busy during the day. In her spare time (when she can find any), she crafts in stained glass, ceramics, tole painting, and oil painting. When she retires, she wants to get "serious" about two of her loves—art and hybridizing irises. She is already very serious about her first love—Henry.

REGION 2 Carl M. O'Shea

The Iris has been Carl's favorite flower for as long as he can remember—his mother grew four varieties in her perennial bed. When Carl took over gardening duties, his favorite of the four had died out. While looking for this variety he saw his first catalog of modern tall bearded irises . . . he was hooked. He grew a great many TB's at first; then he began branching out into medians, Japanese, Siberians, and species. He has recently begun to specialize in Siberians.

Carl has been a member of AIS for about 10 years. He has served in The Empire State Iris Society as Director and as Vice President, and currently serves as Archivist. This is Carl's second year as garden judge and also as secretary of the Syracuse section of ESIS.

Carl has BA and MFA Degrees. He works as manager of an industrial glove factory.

REGION 19 Betty Lou McMartin

Although no information was received on Betty Lou, those who know her know that she is an avid plant fan and very enthusiastic about irises.

REGION 23 Doug Goodnight

Doug Goodnight was born and reared on a small farm near New Boston, Texas. He graduated from New Boston High School in 1949, then served four years in the Navy. He met his wife, Jennie, in 1950 and they married in 1953. They now have two sons and two grandchildren. On any night during full moon, if you look closely, you will be able to see their handprints which were left when they helped to hang that moon.

Doug has grown plants most of his life, so it seemed natural to start growing irises. He now has an acre of the rainbow flowers, including tall bearded, medians, spurias, Louisianas, Siberians, Dutch, and many reblooming varieties. He also has a small commercial garden and is a judge of AIS. He belongs to several sections and belongs to the Lea County Iris Society where he has served in many offices. Doug also is a member of the Eastern New Mexico Rose Society. With all his flower responsibilities, he finds little time for his old hobbies of hunting, fishing, and water skiing. He also has to spend a good deal of time working in the oilfield rental business at a company in Hobbs.

Doug is certain that no one has more fun with irises and iris people than he does. And, even though his iris and rose activities and his job keep him busy, he still finds time to be very active in the local Church of Christ, working with three nursing homes, and with the local hospital.

Doug is one of those busy people who finds time to help others and enjoy his hobby.

1992 Bearded Guest Iris Request

Region 5 Comes Alive in 1992

Region 5 and its AIS-affiliated local societies will host the 1992 American Iris Society National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The Guest Iris Committee invites hybridizers to send guest plants of recent introductions that are no older than 1983 and seedlings that are under serious consideration for introduction.

The 1992 Convention will feature a master planting on the grounds of the Convention hotel. One rhizome of each bearded variety will be planted in this master garden. Ten other gardens will be on tour during the Convention.

When sending guest irises, please observe the following guidelines:

1. A maximum of 50 varieties from each contributor will be accepted.
2. Up to 3 rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
3. Bearded guest rhizomes will be accepted between July 15 and September 1, 1990.
4. All official guest irises must be shipped to:
STEVE AND JANET EMBRY
867 ROCKBRIDGE WAY
NORCROSS, GEORGIA 30093
404-923-4828
5. The following information should be clearly marked on each rhizome:
 - a) Hybridizer's name and address
 - b) Name of the variety or seedling number
 - c) Type of iris
 - d) Height, color, and bloom period
 - e) Year of introduction
 - f) Please also include a master packing list
6. When guest seedlings are sent under number and are later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairmen before November 1, 1991.
7. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors, listing the gardens guesting their plants.
8. About six weeks before the Convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the disposition of their plants. If disposal instructions are not received before June 15, 1992, all seedlings and un-introduced plants will be destroyed. The remaining plants will be turned over to Region 5 for appropriate disposition.
9. All official guest plants to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses. The number of rhizomes to be returned to a contributor will be limited to 10 rhizomes per variety. Any additional rhizomes of that variety will be destroyed.
10. The Convention Committee and owners of the tour gardens will follow the statement of the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

11. The Guest Iris Committee is not responsible for losses beyond its control. Responsibility of the Guest Iris Committee extends only to plants sent through the Guest Iris Chairmen.
12. Only the rhizomes received through the Guest Iris Chairmen will be listed in the convention booklet.

NOTE: Additional beardless guest plants are requested. Please refer to the July, 1989, issue of the AIS Bulletin for specific directions on the shipping procedures.

IRIS ROUNDUP '93

REQUEST FOR BEARDLESS GUEST IRISES

The Fort Worth Iris Society and Region 17 will host the 1993 American Iris Society Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. The Guest Iris Committee invites hybridizers to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of beardless irises under consideration for introduction.

When sending guest irises, please observe the following guidelines:

1. Four rhizomes of each variety should be shipped.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from August 1 to October 15, 1990.
3. All official guest irises must be shipped to:
Keith Smith
1993 Guest Iris Chairman
6008 Wonder Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76133
817-292-5804
4. The following information should accompany each plant:
 - A. Hybridizer's name and address.
 - B. Name or seedling number of the variety.
 - C. Type of iris; i.e. LA., SPU., SIB.
 - D. Height and color.
 - E. Year of introduction (if introduced)
5. When guest seedlings are named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman not later than December 1, 1992.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 1993, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all stock. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.
7. The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will follow the statement of the code of ethics as printed in the A.I.S. Convention Handbook.
8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only rhizomes received through the Guest Iris Chairman will be listed in The Convention Handbook.

Ruth Holleyman

Sam Norris (Kentucky)

This is about the Louisiana Iris, Ruth Holleyman, and not the lady whose name it bears. The incentive for writing this short article came about as follows. A few years back the decision was made to try my hand at increasing the number of Louisiana Irises that had been converted to tetraploid. This was building on the work Mr. Joseph Mertzweiller had so aptly performed in this area and was undertaken in an effort to broaden the gene pool that the tetraploid Louisianas had to draw on.

When Mr. Mertzweiller heard of my attempt, he sent me a number of his tetraploids to get me off to a good start. He also sent me some of the diploid plants and a start of Ruth Holleyman, one of two clones that were listed as being triploid.

My interest in Ruth Holleyman was only natural, and during the first bloom season pollen from it was used on some of my diploid plants, and much to my surprise pods formed which later turned out to be full of seed. This was completely contrary to my previous experience with the triploid plants, so the conclusion was made that the insects had contaminated the blooms with diploid pollen. I was so certain that the seed did not result from the Ruth Holleyman pollen that they were discarded without any effort being made to germinate them.

The next year measurements were made of the pollen and stomata of the Ruth Holleyman plants, and both of these fell well within the range of the diploids. At that time it became evident that a chromosome count was the only way to resolve this problem. The chromosome count turned out to be much harder to make than anticipated.

The method used for preparing the slides was essentially the same as that used by Dr. L. F. Randolph for his chromosome studies, but in the meantime, it had been passed on and used by Dr. Katherine Heinig, Freeman Yendall, John Holden, and now by myself. No doubt each one found good reason to modify it at times to meet any problems that came up, and it could have been somewhat different from the original.

Most of my experience with preparing the slides and making chromosome counts had been with the aril iris, and they had chromosomes that were roughly two and one half times the size of the Louisiana chromosomes. In addition, the cells of the Louisiana Iris were so small in proportion to the number of chromosomes that there was no room for them to spread out far enough to permit good photomicrographs to be made.

The slides made the first year were good enough to allow a reasonably accurate count to be made, but it was a waste of film trying to take any photos. One thing was certain, though; none of the cells had more than 43 chromosomes, while a triploid Louisiana Iris could have a count of 63 to 66. Naturally I kept Mr. Mertzweiller up to date on what had been found. At this point I would like to include a page from a letter he wrote dated July 24, 1989.

The uncertainties regarding RUTH HOLLEYMAN bug me as much as they bug you. Very little about the triploidy of RH ever found its way into print. It was found in the early 1950's by Mr. G. W. Holleyman in extreme southwest Louisiana near the Texas line. He apparently turned it over to Ike Nelson, knowing it was an unusual iris. Ike was the "authority" on Louisianas and he worked closely with Dr. Randolph who was quite interested in the Louisianas at that time. Ike also sold a few irises and I have an old (about 1954) listing of his in which he advertised RH "the first and only known triploid" for \$5. I ordered one, but he had no stock to sell. I know Ike was not doing chromosome counts, so this information was almost certain to come from Randolph. Also, Randolph makes at least two references to the "triploid RH" in *Garden Irises*. These are the only references I have ever seen in print. Ike introduced me to Dr. Randolph, who visited Lafayette in 1956. Randolph impressed me as a very knowledgeable and thorough scientist, much more so than several Nobel laureates I have known.

I became familiar with RH growing in Claude Davis' garden and I got a rhizome from him in 1956. I had limited knowledge about growing them at that time, and it promptly died. But I recall Claude telling me it was difficult to grow despite its size and apparent vigor. I was to learn more about this later, but it is all too true. It is absolutely certain that the iris I now grow as RH is the identical iris grown by Claude Davis. Also, the unusual hybridizing behavior, very difficult as a pod parent but easy as a pollen parent. I have questioned a good many plant authorities about this but have never gotten a satisfactory explanation.

I have as many seedlings of RH as anyone, but only a handful from use as a pod parent—nothing obvious to brag about. There is only one I continue to work with. This dated to 1986 is RH X white seedling from CLARA GOULA. This is a vigorous plant which has pretty stiff foliage, but the bloom has anything but tet substance. It has set tet pollen to give sound seeds, but as yet no seeds have germinated. I will continue limited effort with this plant and every few others with RH as pod parent; the latter seedlings are just becoming blooming size. Good luck with your efforts to make some sense out of RH. Anything will be most welcome.

In the meantime different methods were tried that might possibly make better slides. Eventually a method was worked out that gave a fair number of cells with the chromosomes well enough dispersed to allow them to be photographed. One of these photographs is being sent along with this article, but it is doubtful if it will have enough contrast to allow printing in the bulletin, but when Mr. Mertzweiller saw a copy of the print he thought it might be a good idea to write it up for the AIS bulletin.

There can be no doubt now that the Ruth Holleyman plant is a diploid with a chromosome count of 43. Counts made of the species have given counts of 42 and 44, so a count of 43 is not unusual. The count could, however, explain the poor fertility the plant has shown. Anytime there is an odd chromosome it

can interfere with the process of meiosis, and this in turn results in reduced fertility in the plant.

This information about Ruth Holleyman opens up a whole new can of worms. It is probably too late now to ever to certain of what did happen, so we can only speculate. From what Mr. Mertzweiller has written and from what others have reported about Randolph's work, there is no way he could have made a mistake like this. One possibility seems to be highly probable. Ruth Holleyman was a collected plant, and two look alike, one diploid and one triploid, could have grown together either in the field or in the garden. In this event Randolph could have counted the triploid plant while one or both of the look alike clones were distributed as Ruth Holleyman. If this is the case then the triploid plant could well be growing in someone's garden.

The other possibility is that someone, hearing of the plant's partial sterility, may have speculated that the plant might be a triploid. If this is the case, it wouldn't have to be repeated many times before people would become positive that it was a triploid.

If anyone can shed any light on this mixup, please contact the writer. If anyone has a plant of Ruth Holleyman that seems to be completely pollen sterile, I would appreciate getting a start of it in order to determine if there really is a triploid Ruth Holleyman.

Addendum:

A belated search through the AIS bulletins covering the period from 1954 to the early sixties disclosed one article written by Mr. G. W. Holleyman about the Louisiana Iris, Ruth Holleyman. The article is on page 61 of the July, 1961 issue. Mr. Holleyman states that the plant was "tested" by Prof. Nelson and found to be triploid. As Mr. Mertzweiller is certain Prof. Nelson was not making chromosome counts, it would be quite interesting to know how the plant was "tested".

The Luminata Color Pattern

**Ad Hoc Committee: Harold Stahly, Chairman,
Keith Keppel, Kay Nelson**

In 1972 the Median Iris Society's Genetics Study Panel* defined the term luminata as follows: "Luminata is a genetically reproducible anthocyanin pattern having its color present in an irregular marbling in the central areas of the petals and absent in the peripheral areas. The marbling effect is produced by non-anthocyanin veining (white or yellow), and there is no anthocyanin in the hafts, the stylearms, or the beard."

We propose to modify that definition in light of developments since it was published. There are now luminatas where the "lighter" areas are pigmented by carotenoids so as to be yellow, pink, orange, or some combination or variation of those colors. There are also examples where the anthocyanin coloring continues up the side of the haft essentially into the heart of the flower. And, occasionally, the upper part of the style arm may be lightly

banded or flushed with what appears to be anthocyanin coloring. The margins (peripheral areas) of the petals may vary from a pronounced "pale" edge to only a slight lighter effect at the margin.

We, therefore, present the following definition: "Luminata is a genetically reproducible anthocyanin pattern having its color present in an irregular marbling in the central areas of the petals and absent to some degree in the peripheral areas. The marbling effect is produced by non-anthocyanin veining (white, yellow, pink or orange), and there is no anthocyanin in an area to either side of the beard (which area may or may not extend to the edge of the petal) or in the beard itself."

"The luminata pattern can appear by itself or in combination with plicata pattern; when in combination the patterns superimpose one upon the other, leaving practically none of the flower conspicuously absent of anthocyanin coloration. The combination condition is generally referred to as luminata-plicata, or 'lumi-plic'."

Descriptively, then, the luminata has these characteristics:

1. The beard and an area to either side of the beard are white or are colored with carotenoid pigmentation (Yellow, pink, or orange).
2. Style arms are similarly colored, although there may be light anthocyanin-like coloration on the upper portion.
3. Petals are marked in irregular patterns (described as brushed or marbled) with an anthocyanin color which diminishes in some degree toward petal edges. The marbling is produced by veining of a non-anthocyanin color (white, yellow, pink, or orange). Petal margins may have a pronounced non-anthocyanin edge or rim, or the edge may have only a slight lightening of coloration; or the effect may be anywhere between these extremes. The degree of anthocyanin marking ranges anywhere between these extremes. The degree of anthocyanin marking ranges from very heavy and dark to a very light brushing.

The above description was adopted by the AIS Board of Directors as the official description of the luminata color pattern.

* "Luminata—Fancy in the Altogether." *AIS Bulletin*, April, 1972.

Membership Notebooks

Sharon McAllister (New Mexico)

It started simply enough with an attempt to update a notebook that had been handed down from one president of our local society to the next for a number of years. It quickly turned into a major project: a reference notebook for every membership in our club. We'd like to share this experience with other clubs who may find themselves in a similar position.

By way of background: The Mesilla Valley Iris Society was formed in March of 1973 by seven active iris growers in Las Cruces, and grew to 17 by the time it applied for affiliation with the American Iris Society. We've been fortunate in

two ways. Many of our original members were able to remain active for a number of years, and we've added a lot of new enthusiasts (by 1988, we had 62 members.) Unfortunately, time has also taken its toll. Only three of our charter members are still active in the club. After the death of our last remaining Founder, we realized just how much we had relied on the expertise of our senior members.

The existing President's Notebook had sample letters and notes about things that had been done, but it had no comprehensive "how-to's" for standard responsibilities. We capitalized on the pack-rat tendencies of some of our members and were able to locate a number of older written procedures and examples to use as source material for the development of an up-to-date set of reference materials. As the book took shape, we realized how vulnerable our single-copy records had been and decided that the best way to safeguard important information would be to get it into the hands of more people. The single notebook maintained by the President evolved into a set of identical notebooks, with a copy provided to every membership.

This has had a number of beneficial side effects. Our members now know more about the various club offices and their responsibilities. We have fewer instances of something going undone because "that's not my job" and people seem to be more willing to take on a new job when they know what it entails.

The notebooks probably have as many different uses as we have members. The only thing we ask is that our members add any new material we provide to their books. Some members carry their notebooks to every meeting, for ready reference. Some restrict their copies to "official" handouts, while others add personal material, such as garden maps.

Here's a brief description of the sections in our book, for other clubs that may be interested in launching a similar project.

Agenda

We've found that using a standard agenda for our business meetings helps us accomplish more in less time and leaves time for fun things like slide shows. For example, the agenda provides a section for officers' reports—but this doesn't mean that each officer has to give a report at every meeting, just that any officer who does have something to tell the membership about has a predetermined slot on the schedule. Likewise, there are sections for reports from both standing and special committees which are used as needed and "passed" where appropriate. Finally, there are sections for discussion of unfinished business, new business, and announcements.

Membership List

The Mesilla Valley Iris Society is centered in Las Cruces, but the more inclusive name was chosen because, from the beginning, our membership has been scattered over a wide area. The membership list in our notebook provides a convenient list of names and addresses which not only helps us keep in touch, but also lets us handle a lot of business by mail or by telephone. One of the features we plan to add this year is a set of maps which should make visiting each other's gardens a bit easier.

Calendar

The club calendar isn't fancy, but it serves its purpose of reminding us of important local dates (such as meetings, show, and sale) as well as regional and national events. Its format is one page per month, with the top half of the page taken up with the calendar layout and the lower half left blank for individual notes.

Bylaws

Because all club business must be conducted in accordance with the Bylaws, it's important that every member have ready access to a copy. 'Nuf said.

Iris Lists

We have three separate lists of varieties grown by club members: medians, arilbreds, and tall-bearded. Each entry includes at least the name of the iris, its date of introduction, and list of growers in the club. The list itself is alphabetized by iris name. Some lists also include additional information like the name of the hybridizer and color of the flower. The formats differ because this is strictly a volunteer operation and the various lists are handled by different members. (We can add other lists whenever someone volunteers to handle them.) In bloom season, the lists come in handy if there's a new variety someone wants to see. In digging season, they facilitate trading, as well as provide a reference for labeling rhizomes for our local sale.

Show Procedure

The AIS judges handbook covers the official regulations for presenting an AIS sanctioned show, and some guidelines for the general areas of responsibility. Because it was designed to be flexible enough to allow any interested group to put on a legal show, it doesn't cover the detailed "How-to's". Our procedure describes the way we handle our local show, as it has evolved over the years. It covers the general organization of the show, including approximate dates by which the major milestones must be attained. The heart of the procedure is a job description for every Chairman on the Show Committee—major responsibilities, specific duties, committee members needed, time periods committed, and hints such as other committees to work with.

Miscellaneous

This covers everything that doesn't have its own slot in the notebook, such as the handouts that are frequently given out during our programs. Some members also stash club Newsletters here. Because we meet in members homes, some of which are a little hard to find, the Newsletter frequently includes a map worth holding onto.

Future Plans

We don't actually expect to finish these notebooks because they've turned into an on-going project. The more we use the books, the more ideas people have for additional sections.

For example, we plan to add: 1) a Library List, which will provide a summary of all publications in the MVIS library; 2) maps to various gardens; 3) Tips for

entering irises in the Show; 4) Job Descriptions for Offices and Standing Committees, with greater detail than covered in the Bylaws; 5) a Rhizome Sale Procedure, covering the basic information needed to conduct our sales; and 5) Cultural Information. By the time we finish those, we'll have even more ideas!

Hybridizing at Meadowbrook Gardens

Mrs. Walter A. (Audrey) Machulak (Wisconsin)

The Wisconsin Iris Society show held in 1972 at the Mitchell Park Domes was the starting point for the hybridizing program of Francis Rogers. It was the first iris show he had ever attended, but what he saw at this show made him inquisitive enough to read a few articles on irises, and for "the fun of it" to make his first crosses. His initial efforts were filled with pleasant surprises, though today he wouldn't have been too impressed with the results. He tried again the next year, and the year after that, until 1976 when he became a serious hybridizer, keeping records of his crosses. His crosses were any combination of what he thought might be pleasing, but he had no goals in mind. He wanted to hybridize because he liked the idea of seeing something he helped to create. The thought that "It's my own," became very important to Mr. Rogers, and the curiosity of what might result if A were crossed with B, spurred him onward.

A cross of WINTER OLYMPICS and MISS SATILLO that he made in 1975 was a "pretty good cross," Rogers recalls. His sparse records indicated there weren't many seedlings in that cross, and he saved only one plant for further observation. The others, he felt, were compost material. It wasn't until several years later that he chose the name CUSTARD AND CREAM for this iris.

In 1978 a cross of KILT LILT X COUNTRY BOY was successful in producing some vivid color combinations. Liking the particular style and colors, Rogers selected one of the seedlings and named it TURKS CROWN. The gold standards and red falls reminded him of MICHIGAN PRIDE. Another combination, CAYENNE CAPERS X CARAMBA, produced an iris named GOLD NUTMEG.

In the years that followed, hybridizing efforts were made with WILD APACHE, CAYENNE CAPERS, CARAMBA, and KILT LILT until Mr. Rogers' garden was filled with plicatas. "We almost became sick of looking at them. They were nice, but nothing was outstanding," he said. In 1980 DIRNDLE was introduced. This tall bearded iris makes a good clump. It is the first to flower each spring, and when in bloom, it is a wonderful garden specimen. As plics go, it is not outstanding, but it is far above others in its quality as a good grower.

Mr. Rogers' goal is to improve the CARAMBA-type iris. He would like to create an iris with glowing gold standards, but with much improved growing and blooming habits. Another goal he has for himself is to investigate the

laced-pink line of tall-bearded irises. Again he will be looking for improved growing and blooming habits. Oh, yes! He also would like to find some nice pure white irises in his seedling patch. "There is no such thing as reaching your goal," he said. "When you do, you quit trying. In this field of hybridizing there is always more to be done, more goals to strive for. I wouldn't feel right if I didn't have some goal to work toward all the time."

Most hybridizers know that everything doesn't come up roses. The Rogers' garden is no exception. One year the moles got in the seedbed and mixed up all the seeds resulting in many unknown crosses. Another year they ate all the tops off the one-year seedlings. Many times seedlings that are worth a second look are lost because of rot. Could anything be more frustrating than to finally get an interesting seedling that would fit into the breeding program perfectly, only to find it is sterile? These are only a few of the obstacles Rogers had to put up with in his years of hybridizing.

He hasn't been able to solve all the problems he has encountered, but Rogers feels he has at least outsmarted the moles. He now puts fine wire under the seed boxes, so the moles can't get underneath. Each individual box contains one cross, and so far, the moles haven't figured out how to make a merry-mix-up of the seeds.

In the next year or two our hybridizing friend would like to try some adventurous crosses using SPINNING WHEEL as a parent, hoping to get some different patterns in the seedlings. "I think a lot of people will be using SPINNING WHEEL," he said, "and several others like THEATER should result in something outstanding." He already has seen the results of a cross made of SPINNING WHEEL X THEATER and has saved several of the seedlings. He has registered one as ISLAND SONG. Its standards are light lavender, and the falls have white ground with violet blue markings on the ruffled edge. An interesting veining surrounds the purple beard tipped yellow.

For Rogers there are no disadvantages in breeding the tall bearded irises because they are the only ones he likes. He just never got interested in trying his luck with the other varieties. He did say it was very difficult to find something better than what's on the market today, and most are only an improvement over existing varieties . . . with the exception of CHIPPEWA BRAVE. "It's different because of its color," he said.

Hybridizing is a learning process involving lessons learned from experimentations. Stick-to-it-tiveness is a lesson learned early in the game if one wants to be a truly, good, hybridizer. More failures than successes is the name of the game. "There is always one special one out there. The trick is to find it," Mr. Rogers said. Creating an area compatible for iris culture is another lesson learned the hard way. It wasn't until he found a method to keep the area well-drained that Rogers was able to eliminate the problem of rot. And last, but not least, one can't become an iris pack-rat. There is just so much space and so much time that one can devote to this hobby; eventually the hybridizer must clean house. A mistake that Rogers made was keeping his seedlings 4 or 5 years; eventually he ended up with too many.

When asked if he would take a different approach were he to begin a hybridizing program today, Rogers said he would do "variety-crossing" rather than line-breeding because he felt he became stale when he used the line-breeding technique. He likes to have several lines going at the same time and likes the idea of change. "This way," he said, "you must throw a lot of seedlings out . . . but that's life."

Progress means different things to different hybridizers. When Rogers can see his seedlings becoming more vigorous, better branched with increased bud count and a total absence of rot, then he will feel he has made progress. In the meantime, there is much work to be done.

"The main reason I got into the hybridizing game was to create irises that would please me. Pleasing myself is most important and when the public sees what I like, I hope that they will like it too. I have always felt this way. I have never intended to have a nursery, nor am I in the game to make money. I am in this for the personal pleasure of pleasing myself," Mr. Rogers said.

When Rogers isn't in his garden tending to his irises, he is in his easy chair reading everything he can possibly find on the subject. Though it is difficult to find much material written specifically on them, the AIS bulletin and region newsletters are very helpful. Many times the material found pertains to other flowers but can be applied to irises as well.

Anyone interested in beginning a hybridizing program would do well to contact several veteran hybridizers and discuss their ideas and methods. These people are more than willing to share what they have learned over the years. Rogers feels that hybridizing becomes a very personal thing, and an overall picture is very helpful when the beginner zeros in on his methods of hybridizing. "What works for me may not necessarily work for the next person, but I feel it is important to know there are many methods to reach a common goal . . . that of an outstanding new introduction," he said. It is a good idea for the beginner to see what hybridizers consider a good cross. This way he or she can avoid some mistakes and is less likely to become discouraged right from the beginning.

Rogers hasn't done much line-breeding in his career as a hybridizer. He prefers out-crossing because he feels that this method speeds the progress in reaching his goals. "In out-crossing you try to work someone else's best irises into your crosses." He does follow a pattern in his breeding program and explained that he crosses two irises that someone else thought worthy of introduction, crossing two strangers so to speak. Then he crosses sister seedlings back to either parent. He goes on from there crossing these seedlings back into his line, and then he will probably out-cross them again. The selected seedlings are kept for a few years as he critically observes their performance. If something turns up that is outstanding, he will register the iris. If not, it's "back to the drawing board," and the search continues for something great!

The qualification that a good sturdy seedling must have is its ability to stand up in the wind, without support. Hopefully, it won't be susceptible to rot. It must have good branching and a bud count of at least 6 or 7 buds. An

exceptional flower is a must though the color is a secondary requirement over plant performance.

Rogers feels we have enough whites, pinks, blues, etc. at the present time, and it would be a lot better if hybridizers would concentrate more on disease resistance and growth habits when they are introducing their irises. He feels hybridizers seem to be getting lax in this aspect of their efforts. He suggests that irises should be sent to test gardens and conventions. In these conditions irises can be checked for their performance outside of their birthing grounds. A good iris should perform well on the East Coast, the West Coast, and all points in between.

"Irises grown in the year 2000 will be similar to those growing in our gardens right now. I think there will be some improvement on disease resistance, but I don't think much improvement can be made on the colors," Rogers said.

While Rogers and other hybridizers like him carry on in their search for that perfect iris, we can support their efforts by growing these "fruits" of their labors.

Francis Rogers, and his wife Ruth, maintain Meadowbrook Gardens in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Irises and Ikebana

Suky Mahan (Virginia)

In my local iris group, the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society, we are fortunate to have some very expert flower arrangers such as Joy Peters, Celeste Cox, and a great master Ikebana teacher, Katsuyo Gentile. We always have very large and beautiful artistic design components of our iris shows. In such company I am very presumptuous to write on the subject. I cannot say I enjoy doing arrangements for competition. I enjoy making floral designs for the act of doing it. Most of my training comes from the Ikenobo, or classical, school of Ikebana.

The Ikenobo school is the oldest of all Ikebana schools. It was founded over five hundred years ago by Ikenobo Senkei at the Rokkaku-do temple in Kyoto. Ikebana developed from the flower tributes to Buddha at the temple. At Rokkaku-do temple the *rikka* style of the Ikenobo masters was created, and because of its beauty and the fact that many pilgrims visited the famous temple it became famous all over Japan. Irises were used in the Ikenobo school arrangements from the beginning.

All types of irises are suitable for use in Ikebana. Traditionally, the most popular were forms of *Iris ensata* (hanashobu), *I. laevigata* (kakitsubata) and *I. sanguinea* (ayame). These irises are all native to China and Korea, too, and have been used in those countries for arrangements for many centuries.

Although bearded irises did not come to Japan until modern times, they can also be used in Ikebana. In choosing varieties of bearded irises, however, those with the most beautifully formed buds are most desirable. It is possible to use large and ruffled flowers, but I prefer cultivars of more simple, "tailored"

form. Miniature tall bearded and intermediate bearded irises offer excellent material. Also bearded iris species such as *I. pallida* and *I. aphylla* are useful. The beautiful variegated foliage of ZEBRA and ARGENTEA makes for a lovely effect.

Siberian irises are my favorite material for arrangements. TEALWOOD is wonderful for Ikebana because it has beautiful buds, pure color, excellent height and classic foliage. Solid colors such as TEALWOOD's deep, deep purple are usually better for Ikenobo designs. Even so, the beautifully mottled ANN DASCH is also an excellent Ikebana subject because of its bud form and its unique act of opening—so different from any other iris. WHITE SWIRL is an almost perfect subject, and I prefer it for arrangements over larger, “fancy” white cultivars.

Japanese irises, of course, can be used in Ikebana arrangements, but if you use the large flowered varieties you must be especially careful to ensure your container and other material provide the right proportion. Last year I discovered the good curved branches of PRAIRIE BLUEMOON, which also has nice solid color. The use of species *I. ensata* “Rose Queen” is also recommended.

Although other flowers and plant material can be used with irises in arrangements, the beauty of the iris buds, flowers and foliage is so great that my favorite arrangements use only iris material. The association of the iris with water makes it ideal for use in a basin container. It is important in such an arrangement that a spacious surface of water be symbolized. Thus, the basin container should be filled with water almost to the rim as a background for the plant material.

The use of irises in a water basin type container should be done in such a way as to represent their beauty extracted from plant groupings. When the iris flower, bud and foliage are arranged in groups, the groups should be set in such a way as to fuse into a totality. This is done following a form called *gyodo-ike*, which means “arranging a course for fish.”

In an Ikenobo style arrangement “that which is coming into being” is more important than “that which is.” This means the iris bud is more important to the arrangement than the flower, and the newly emerging foliage is more important than the fully developed foliage. The use of the flower bud in an Ikenobo arrangement is very important.

To the Japanese, every plant and color has symbolic significance. Iris leaves, being sword-like, represent masculine traits of boldness and power. Because of the intense symbolism of colors in Ikebana, color of flowers, foliage and container is as important as style and lines in an arrangement. Some of the colors symbolize the same thing in the Far East as in the West; but in some cases the symbolism is different. Here are the colors and their meanings:

Red	Passion, courage, danger, revolution
Black	Heaviness, death, stillness, loneliness, emptiness
White	Purity, existence, silence, nothingness
Gray	Modesty, confession, loneliness, the common

Orange	Masculine, passion, healthy, selfishness
Yellow	Progress, cheerfulness, jealousy, cold
Green	Rest, intelligence, hope, stillness
Purple	Noble, deepness, the remote, insecurity, sorrow
Brown	Settled, solid, earnest, introspective

As a matter of possible interest, some of the other plant symbolism in Ikebana includes the pine to represent the strong and sturdy and the bamboo to portray the strong and enduring or faithfulness. At New Year's the pine and bamboo are used together to represent propriety.

The peach's delicate blossoms represent feminine qualities of mildness and gentleness (My husband says this was true before Women's Lib, and even though he is wrong I cannot argue with him because I do not want to be "ungentle"). The plum means good fortune and calls to mind the winter's end. In autumn the chrysanthemum stands for immortality. We never use camellias for happy occasions or with gift-giving. This is because when the camellia fades the entire flower falls off and signifies "chopping off of a head." This is an old superstition.

In arranging material one should always use an uneven number. This is considered better symmetry, and odd numbers also indicate good luck. We never use material in groups of four or nine. Four signifies death and nine means suffering.

There are many rules and techniques in classical Ikebana, but nothing can take the place of one's own spirit and feeling in making an arrangement. In fact, some of the most beautiful Japanese type arrangements I have ever seen have been created by persons who knew nothing about Ikebana schools or techniques. I think it is a mistake to get so concerned about schools and rules that we are afraid to try making Ikebana type arrangements. If my flower arrangement is beautiful to me, that should be enough. When you make an arrangement using irises it will be beautiful. Irises are always beautiful.

Expanding Our Iris Horizons

Lavone Ney (Wisconsin)

If we had a help wanted column, that is where this appeal would be. As showtime is coming around again, we should think seriously about the different ways we can promote our favorite flower. Help us attract gardeners into becoming Iris enthusiasts.

Have you given thought to the fact that artistic arrangements featuring Irises add an extra dimension to our Shows? While Iris stalks are cut and shown with an eye towards winning a blue ribbon, the rest of our Iris garden contains many a lovely bloom that deserves to be seen and admired. Perhaps you have a favorite or newer variety or several that you would like to show off but the flower isn't co-operating with its best display at showtime. This is an

appeal to your creativity. Less than perfect stalks, even single blooms can be sometimes used in charming arrangements.

The following eight principles are offered to refresh your awareness of what makes a successful arrangement: Design, scale, balance, harmony, repetition, rhythm, focal point and unity.

Consider the first three—design, scale and balance. Have a plan and visualize it. A sketch helps. Does the arrangement class that you wish to enter suggest a round arrangement, a triangular shape, an S bend, known as a Hogarth line or a flowing horizontal movement? Scale will usually be decided upon in the Artistic Division rules. Most recently scale has been suggested as “in proportion to the container used.” Size should be a relationship of the component parts of your arrangement, with a sense of proportion between flowers, foliage, container and site, if a backdrop or niche is used.

Next try to visualize the balance of the arrangement. Balance by form, means a visual effect of equal weight on each side of an imaginary line. This can be gained by equal distribution of weight in a symmetrical arrangement or visually balancing an irregular or asymmetrical one. The latter can be done in the use of color depth and counterbalanced by more delicate shadings.

Harmony can be exemplified by color let downs, as perhaps a mat in a darker shade of the Iris used, or background flowers in a lighter shade. The use of foliage suitably related to the flowers also achieves this result.

Repetition is a way to make an emphasis, but don't go overboard! An odd number of plant material, say 3 or 5 flowers or similar use of foliage is most pleasing.

Rhythm is the sense of movement that the arrangement evokes. It directs the eye so the whole shape of the composition is followed and your gaze is drawn back to a focal point. Remember, Irises must predominate, so let the movement of your arrangement flow from there. Now step back and see if you have placed any material at a tangent from the main design, or color where it would distract from the picture as a whole.

Make a trip to the library to look through some books on arrangements, not to copy but to absorb some of the ideas which you can adapt to the material you have in your own garden.

Please expand your Iris horizons and ours by entering the artistic division of a show. Discover that you have good taste and some artistic ability— isn't that why you are growing Irises?

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Japanese Iris or Hanashobu

Taking a Closer Look at Some of the Newer Cultivars

Diana Nicholls (Virginia)

My Japanese iris collection grows ever larger as I continue to discover wonderful new as well as older cultivars. Adding to one's iris collection is one of the pleasures we all share. If you are looking for some newer Japanese irises to add to your garden, you may want to consider some of the ones following. Where to start? There were so many cultivars at the 1989 SJI Convention that a wonderful opportunity to evaluate many of the newer introductions and seedlings was provided. Some that come to mind as standing out are listed here for your consideration. Japanese irises are referred to as single if they have three falls or double if they have six falls. Multipetaled varieties have nine to twelve falls.

CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY (Marx 85) is a double white with prominent, dark purple veining. Dark purple styles draw attention to the center of the flower. Excellent substance.

CASCADE CREST (Aitken 88) is white with a one inch light blue band. White style arms edged dark blue finish off this double, wonderful "billowing cloud". A vigorous grower and definitely worth consideration.

EDGE OF FROST (Dienstbach 88) is tall and well branched. The repeat stalks have up to four branches plus the terminal. This double produces lots of flowers. It has a deep violet ground heavily veined red violet with a near white pencil line edge. The pencil edge does stand out.

IAPETUS (Innerst 88) is double with a light ground that is sanded and veined deep blue-violet, shading to red-violet at the edges. Ruffles and deep red-violet styles finish off this lovely picture. A nice addition to the garden.

JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen 88) is a single tetraploid that once seen can easily be recognized in a crowd. This medium wine red with a lighter fine line edge of good substance becomes a favorite with all who see it. It was voted Most Popular Guest JI at the 1989 convention.

LET ME SEE (Ackerman 89) is a double violet-blue, veined darker with dark violet styles. In addition to being a beautiful flower, it has a special bonus in that it is a real season extender. Of the several hundred Japanese irises that I grow, this was the last to close her flowers, bringing to an end the Japanese iris season. This one has excellent substance and excellent garden value.

LILAC PEAKS (Vogt, R 1981) is not quite as new as the others, but one that I fell in love with upon seeing it for the first time three years ago. It is truly exquisite and a most wonderful addition to the garden. It is a double white with violet veining and light lavender stylearms. It looks so delicate and beautiful, but what substance! A really good garden plant.

KALAMAZOO (Hazzard 89) is a single and nice to see as we do not get nearly as many singles as doubles being introduced these days. The falls

have a center of blue-violet radiating veins that end leaving a white border. The dark blue-violet standards are edged in white.

MCKENZIE SUNSET (Reid 88) has ruffles and ruffles. It is a double violet with a white area around the signal and white rays extending outward. Large flowers on a nice size clump.

MICHIO (Miller 89) a double medium blue-violet with white veins and white area around the signal is striking in the garden. It is very vigorous and makes instant clumps.

Any of the Japanese irises mentioned above are worthy of consideration for addition to the garden and would provide good garden value. Many of the other introduced convention guests were also excellent garden plants as well as many of the seedlings under number. The future introductions hold great promise and much to anticipate.



Youth Views

Catherine Long Gates

The Future of Arils Is with the Tetraploids

Jerry Simmons (California)

Hybridizers have been working with arils and arilbreds for quite some time to get the beautiful color patterns of the arils onto plants that are hardier, sturdier, and that have more buds and branching. Early hybridizers tried to achieve these goals by interbreeding the various types of aril species. Then they turned their attention to trying to cross the arils with the TBs which is where most of the work has been going on in relation to aril hybridizing. Recently, however, the advancements of science have allowed a new type of aril hybridizing to start up.

By using colchicine, hybridizers are able to turn diploid arils into tetraploids, thus allowing more combinations of genes. These tetraploids tend to have more flower substance, and they tend to be slightly more hardy than the other pure arils. The increased number of chromosomes hopefully will open up the door to finding irises which produce genes conducive to hardiness.

The tetraploids have an added value in that as tetraploids they can be crossed with tetraploid bearded irises (like TBs) to produce fertile, hardy offspring. In the past, hybridizers had to cross C.G. White types together to get even semi-fertile offspring between the arils and TBs. Just as hybridizers would be making real progress toward hardiness, the irises would turn out to be sterile, and they'd have to start all over again. Plenty of wonderful irises were created on the way, but they didn't meet all of the criteria that the hybridizers had set up. Many hybridizers are now trying to interbreed the tet. arils in an attempt to get aril irises which will come closer to meeting their goals.

Now many aril hybridizers, including myself, have turned their attention to yet another possibility—crossing the tetraploid arils with Tall Bearded in an effort to get arilbreds that can be grown right in amongst the regular TBs and that don't need any special care. To accomplish this goal, hybridizers that have large collections of tet. arils are sent pollen of the latest and best of the TBs in the spring. The best seedlings are raised and evaluated, and traded among people interested in growing them. So far we have seen only the first generation of these tet. aril X TB crosses, but they are coming along. This year Sam Norris was able to get 55 seed from this type of cross from TB pollen that I had sent to him.

This type of breeding is coming slowly but surely. The results will clearly be a breakthrough in iris breeding and will allow the average gardener to grow arils—something iris growers have been looking forward to for a long time.

The 1989 Season Remembered

Ronald Mullin (Oklahoma)

After a season which tried to start in January, was frozen in February, was confused in March, and dehydrated in a rainless April, bloomtime 1989 proved again that irises are truly a hardy perennial.

SILVERADO (Schreiners) was spectacular again. Silvery blue-white flowers were on a straight, well branched stem with multiple buds. Form was great, substance was super; and durability was evidenced by ability to withstand the May rain and still look good. It has the durable qualities of its robust and dependable parent, Carriage Trade.

CRUZIN (M. Dunn) was a delight. Tall, sturdy stalks held extremely wide petaled flowers which lasted for days and days, evidence of the heavy substance. Branching was typical Mary Dunn, which means it was excellent. Dark, almost navy blue flowers were "starred" with white on the upper center of the falls and up the middle of the standards to give startling beauty. The amount of white varied from garden to garden, but the quality didn't change.

CALIPH (Ghio) bloomed the best brown flowers I've ever seen and did so over a long period of time. Its performance matched the quality and color of the flower. As one who is not fond of brown, I couldn't believe how much I enjoyed this bright flower.

TIME PIECE (Roderick) is a ruffled, sunny yellow with white splashed in the center of the falls. Three flowers opened at once on beautifully branched stalks. Good substance maintained the sunny yellow flowers and assured days and days of beauty. Then, the bud count assured that this iris was definitely a long-time piece of beauty.

PINK ROSE (Hamblen) is always intensely pink, but in the cool rains of early May, it took on new color depth. Deep rose pink falls and slightly lighter standards glowed across the garden. Pink Rose seemed to love the erratic weather and gave its best performance. It's truly a "must" for pink iris fans, although others are taller and more ruffled.

RARE TREAT (Schreiners) is clean and sharply contrasted with narrow purple edging on snow white petals. It is well branched and has two to three ruffled, wide-petaled flowers on more than one occasion during the season.

DANCE AWAY (Hamblen) is extremely well branched with good bud count. The color is what Melba describes as amber pink standards and pearled violet falls trimmed peach. It has burnt sienna beards and classic form. The color is different and quite charming.

WINIFRED ROSS (Hamblen) is an iris I liked from the time I first saw it in the Mission Bell Gardens. It is two shades of rosy pink with the falls being deeper in tone. It has a pronounced honeysuckle fragrance and great branching. Bud count is excellent, and growth is good.

CLASSIC EDITION (O. Brown) and MODERN STORY (O. Brown) are relatives of Pink Rose but take a different approach to depth of color. Both are what Opal calls "brick." The two are alike in some respects, but different enough to demand equal space. These and Pink Rose are vast improvements over their ancestor, the brilliantly colored but narrow, Far Corners.

SUNKIST FRILLS (D. Palmer) is the bright yellow and white "double-rimmed" beauty discovered by conventioners in Indianapolis gardens. Good branching allows for good placement of the flowers. White falls are rimmed with yellow then edged with a narrow rim of white. It's not as classically formed as Sheer Poetry, but it's unique and lovely. So far, it hasn't grown very tall in my garden.

DIVINE (M. Dunn) is a near amoena, but some coloring in the standards makes them a pale violet blue. The falls feature a large white center spot to contrast sharply with the basic color of the falls. Standards are open, but the midribs are strong enough to keep the petals from being out of place.

CRYSTALYN (B. Dunn) is a super-substantiated, heavily ruffled blue white with absolutely excellent branching and bud count. Strong, sturdy stalks hold the large flowers without the slightest hint that they will topple over. This gives a long bloom season, and it has been overlooked in the AIS voting.

FIREFOX (M. Dunn), GOLD COUNTRY (Ghio), and BOLD GOLD (Gatty) are approximately the same age, the same color, and the same quality. When they first bloomed for me, I kept trying to choose my favorite. I never decided which one it was, and that's because they are all very fine. Not one of the three has any trouble with burning, and we certainly do need these bold colors in the garden. I'll keep all three.

HOT STREAK (Ghio) is brilliant, flashy, striking, and fantastic. This hot plic has bright gold with spicy red brown markings. Beautiful form and heavy substance make this one quite an attraction. It has so much more going for it than some of the others in this pattern.

MEMPHIS BLUES (Schreiners) is a richly colored blue from the violet side that produces well formed flowers in abundance. Good branching and bud count put this one on the long list of outstanding blues from Schreiners and higher on my list of favorites than many of the others. Often we overlook blues, whites, or yellows because we have so many good ones in those colors, but we must always be aware that ever better ones are coming on the market. Remember, when Babbling Brook and Shipshape won the Dykes Medals they so richly deserved? Well, they have been surpassed, so don't forget to add some new ones in these colors to keep the very best in your garden.

ALTRUIST (Schreiners) is a light blue with white generously applied to the central parts of the flower. The very broad petals show this unique coloring from afar. Close inspection just adds to one's enjoyment of this appealing flower, and oh my, is it ever appealing.

PRIZE DRAWING (Plough) continues the unique pencil markings that were first seen in Pencil Sketch. This one is more subtle, better formed, cleaner looking, and very nice. The flower features wide falls and closed standards which provide perfect balance.

EVER AFTER (Keppel) is a rich color described by Keith as fuchsia rose. I don't know what color it is, but I know that it is different from other irises and it is beautiful. It features all the good qualities for which judges should be looking when they evaluate garden irises. It blooms and blooms, even after others have finished. It is one of those that dares the viewer to try to find fault with it. I can't.

BURGUNDY BUBBLES (Maryott) is a tall burgundy wine with plenty of ruffles. The stalks are tall and well branched, so several of the shiny-surfaced blossoms can be open at once and have space all their own. Brilliant coloring shines across the garden.

DESIGNER GOWN (Ghio) is a fast increaser, heavy bloomer, and fantastic performer. The pink-grape color is different from other pinks, and the flowers are so very beautiful. A two-year clump had twenty-three bloomstalks, and each managed to hold the flowers apart from the others. When the season ended, there were still rhizomes for next year and some to give to the local sale. This is what I want a garden iris to be because it gives abundant return for my money and my time.

ROSETTE WINE (Schreiners) If the picture on the cover of the Schreiner catalog had appeal, then this is the iris to buy. The picture on the cover is exactly how it looked in my garden. It had three open flowers, it had good branching, and it was exactly the color of the picture. The bright red wine accented by a lighter spot was very pretty, and back up buds kept the plant aglow for several days.

GIFT OF DREAMS (Hamblen) is a bit tailored for some people, but since it is pink with a blue beard, why would one want ruffles in abundance? The tall

stalks are loaded with buds. Cool weather makes the pink very bluish in tone, but the warmth of some days erases that blue and makes this truly pink with blue beards.

MAGIC (Hager) has the deepest lavender blue beard on a pink flower that I've seen. Unlike so many others, the blue of the beard does not fade to white. It stays blue the entire life of the flower. This one is shorter than Gift of Dreams, and it must hold potential for even further advancement in this color class. Like all Ben Hager irises (In Oklahoma, at least) this one is very vigorous.

SNOWBROOK (Keppel) is snow white with a very narrow edging of blue on the falls only. The real eye-catcher on this one is the purity of the white petals. This makes it a cinch to not only catch your eye, but also steal your heart. I can't say enough about the beauty of this flower.

PINK BUBBLES, VANITY, AND BEVERLY SILLS are famous pinks from Ben Hager, but they deserve no more praise than the shrimp pink beauty called ANNA BELLE BABSON. Heavily ruffled flowers usually appear three to a stalk, and many stalks are produced. This is a tremendous garden flower, and it provided plants for the coming year and for the sale even though it produced many bloom stalks.

It isn't easy for a white iris to attract attention, especially at a convention. WINTER WHITE (B. Brown) did so in San Jose even among the many things most of us had never seen before. It continued to attract attention in Oklahoma at the convention. It is one of the best currently available, and it is certainly the whitest. So your garden already has several white irises—get this one to improve the quality of whites.

JURIS PRUDENCE (Ernst) is another fine white which is not the stark white of Winter White. This one does not yellow as some whites do with age. It produces good stalks in abundance, and it's another white that should be grown.

Evelyn Kegerise has had many irises which were "discovered" at conventions. EVELYN'S ECHO is one of those. It is a top quality, very ruffled, deep violet blue. Kegerise irises always have excellent branching, and this one is one of the crowd. This very fine iris deserves the attention it demands.

The quest for "different" continues in irisdom, and WINDBORNE (Hamblen) is different. Pink standards sit erectly above falls of the same color with stripes of red violet reaching almost to the petal edges. In cool seasons, as this past year was, the stripes become almost a solid color. The warm weather version is much prettier. It isn't tall, but it makes a fine plant for the front of the bed.

Ben Hager gives us one good iris after another, and I think he has one of his best ones in FRAGRANT LILAC. The long row of it in his garden in 1986 is still etched in my memory. I wish I could grow that many plants because each plant there produced perfect stalks of the same height for the entire row. It was a delight in lilac.

COSMIC DANCE introduced a new color pattern a few years ago, but it is surpassed by HONKY TONK BLUES (Schreiner). Basically a medium violet

blue in color, its attraction comes from lighter edges on all the petals. It's unique and lovely and one that is not just different, but also good.

SKYSHIP (B. Dunn) smolders and smokes and blasts off into the blue. To clarify: it's a violet blue with an undertone of red which is reminiscent of smoke. For those who have seen dark clouds of a violent thunderstorm when the setting sun casts a reddish glow, you've seen the color of Skyship. Oh yes, it's a very fine iris.

ANY SUNDAE (Durrance) is the first red-bearded white that I've grown of recent introduction that actually surpasses those great ones of that coloring from the past. It has lace on the petal edges, and the beard is a very bright reddish tone.

MARRIAGE VOWS (Ghio) is soft, creamy pink with ruffles and ruffles and my idea of exquisite form. In fact, everything about this creation is exquisite. The picture on the back of a recent Bulletin is very accurate in color and form for the flower.

Hearing the name Joe Gatty should immediately bring to mind the luscious pinks for which he is famous—peach pink, rose pink, deep pink—every shade of pink has been seen in such fabulous irises as PARADISE, SATIN SIREN, JOYOUS MELODY, and others. Picture your favorite shade of pink on a beautifully formed flower and think of those same varieties. Think of great branching, and again, they will come to mind. Think of soft yellows and another list of Gatty irises will come to mind, but for me, the current winner is SIMPLY PRETTY. It is perfectly named because it isn't flashy or extremely bright; it is simply pretty.

Reverse bicolors come in many different colors now, but since yellow and white seem to be the favorite for me, I always think of PRECIOUS MOMENTS (Gatty). When it was first introduced, I heard of its quality from many in California. When it bloomed for me, it didn't disappoint. When judges look at irises, I often wonder if it is the flashy colors which attract some of them. If so, I recommend a closer look at this fabulous, quiet iris. It doesn't shout, but it is perfection.

WINTERSCAPE (McWhirter) has received raves from its home state for some time. It is tall and elegant in blue white. It features very heavy substance and what is often called "show-stalk" branching. For those who don't care about winning in shows, check it for duration of bloom, and it will prove a winner again.

Take a beautifully formed flower, give it ruffling, put it on a super stalk with good branching, and color it a blend of tan, orchid, and other colors and you'll have BLENDED FRILLS (O. Brown). Like so many irises, the description sounds dull, but when the hybridizer is Opal Brown, it will be great and anything but dull.

SUNSHINE SONG (Niswonger) is an extremely floriferous approach to the yellow amoena. The yellow on this one is concentrated near the upper part of the falls and streaks and blends downward toward the edges of the petals. I loved it at first sight.

Illinois hybridizer Steve Poole told me that his goal was to have irises with great branching, wide form, and heavy substance. He achieved all three with his medium yellow iris called SHAWNEE WHISPER. And, he also achieved his other requirement which was vigorous growth.

Keith Keppel continues to give us plicatas of the quality we always expected from the man who was called the plicata king, Jim Gibson. With CHANGE OF HEART, Keith has introduced an iris that is a creamy pink with an outpouring of reddish purple at the hafts only. It blooms shorter than some others, but it isn't too short, and it takes a back seat to nothing when it comes to attractiveness.

When one writes an article, some fine irises are forgotten, especially when the article is written without planning. Those mentioned here are not the only good ones grown in my garden, and I don't mean to imply that they have every good quality, but they do well in my garden, and I enjoy them.

The Origins of Remontancy

Clarence Mahan (Virginia)

What is the origin of remontancy in modern reblooming irises? If we knew the answer to this question, we could use the knowledge to plan our hybridizing efforts to better effect. When I undertook to find an answer, I was surprised to learn how limited past research efforts have been. Instead of finding much speculation, positing of hypotheses, and arguments pro and con for alternative views, I found a few brief comments and speculations. The major work on the issue remains Edwin Rundlett's article "Whence the Remontants" in the March 1971 *Reblooming Iris Reporter*.

The facts presented in "Whence the Remontants" are sound. One of Rundlett's contributions to increased light on the subject was the development of a pedigree chart for G. Percy Brown's AUTUMN TWILIGHT. From this pedigree and other research facts, he hesitatingly hinted that *I. variegata* might be a source of remontancy.

Another possible origin of remontancy mentioned in Rundlett's article is the true *I. pumila*. TWICE BLESSED (Dennis, 1966) derived from a cross of CLEAR SAILING X Schacht true *pumila*, BRIGHTYES (Darby, 1958) came from Welch H503 (a true *pumila*) X MISSOURI NIGHT. Hans Peter Sass's use of the 40-chromosome *I. chamaeiris* (now designated *I. lutescens*) to get a race of remontant but sterile intermediate irises is also mentioned by Rundlett.

In an article in *The Garden* in 1918, W. R. Dykes described a number of irises which bloomed for him in the autumn. He wrote: "In any large collection of irises it frequently happens that here and there an odd flower spike appears in August or September. This year I have already seen flowers of the Balkan *I. reichenbachii* and of the wild form of *I. variegata*, and I remember once having a number of spikes of GRACCHUS, a garden *variegata*, late in September." The remainder of the Dykes article concerns two irises that dependably rebloomed in his garden.

One of the irises Dykes cited as reblooming every year was a form of *I. aphylla* that came from Hungary. He described this iris as "remarkable for the vivid dark-purple coloration of the base of the leaves and also of the whole of the inflorescence when this first appears among the leaves." The iris was "much branched" and of a deep purple color with a bluish beard.

The second iris that Dykes described as being a regular rebloomer in his garden was a hybrid of a purple "chamaeiris" and *I. trojana*. This iris was 20 to 24 inches tall, with two lateral branches "arranged as in typical *I. germanica*." It bore four or five flowers of dark bluish purple.

In *The Genus Iris*, Dykes described *I. subbiflora* and explained that this iris was first observed by Clusius in Portugal about 1565, and subsequently referred to as *Iris lusitanica seu biflora*. Clusius gave it this name because he discovered it blooming in November, and observed that it regularly bloomed in both spring and autumn. An error in the *Hortus Eystettensis* led Linnaeus to confuse this iris with *I. aphylla*, leading to much subsequent confusion among students of the genus *Iris*.

Also in *The Genus Iris*, in describing *I. lurida*, Dykes wrote: "It has the additional advantage of sometimes flowering a second time in autumn, which is a further argument in support of the theory of its hybrid origin. In cultivating a large collection of Irises, it will be found that hybrids are much more apt to flower a second time in the autumn than are species." On the subject of *I. lurida*, Dykes also observed: "The colour and shape of the falls seem to point to *I. variegata* as one of the parents and the theory of its hybrid origin is supported by the fact that it appears to be sterile. The only difficulty is that it flowers early, about a month before *I. variegata*." If one of the parents of *I. lurida* were a dwarf species, the early flowering habit would be what one would expect.

As a source of remontancy in modern bearded irises, *I. lutescens* (syn. *I. chamaeris*) is not a likely candidate. The Sass sterile intermediates, such as SOUTHLAND and ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, are grown in collections of antique irises; but this route to remontancy in modern irises was, as Rundlett pointed out, a blind alley. The prolific, reblooming LIEUTENANT DE CHAVAGNAC (André, 1926) and JEAN SIRET (André, 1926) are most probably hybrids of *I. lutescens*. Although they have been widely grown in gardens ever since their introduction, they do not appear to have played a role in modern rebloomer development.

The difficulties one faces in keeping *I. subbiflora* alive and happy in wet cold winter climates was well documented by Dykes. It is not likely that this species has contributed to remontancy in modern bearded irises. I do not know of any authority who has suggested it as a remontant progenitor.

Is it likely that *I. reichenbachii* has contributed to rebloom in modern irises? Paul Cook's use of a species *presumed* to be *I. reichenbachii* to create PROGENITOR is well known. The research of Walter Welch provides a rather convincing case that the PROGENITOR ancestor was actually a form of *I. mellita*. In cold weather areas, at least, PROGENITOR descendants are not noted for a proclivity to rebloom. There are, however, some modern rebloom-

ing irises, such as VIOLET MIRACLE and EARL OF ESSEX, which have some PROGENITOR heritage.

The possibility that *I. mellita* might have some remontant breeding potential is suggested by the fact that Dykes at one time grew a clone of *I. rubromarginata*, a form of *I. mellita*, which flowered for him quite regularly in September and October. He reported this in an article in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* in November 1910. Interestingly, he does not mention this iris in his 1918 article on autumn blooming irises. One might suspect that the "reblooming" clone either stopped blooming in the fall or that it disappeared altogether from his garden. Many of us who have undertaken growing *I. mellita* would suspect the latter, for this is not an easy iris to keep content.

I have found no convincing evidence to support a case for either *I. reichenbachii* or *I. mellita* being sources of remontancy in modern irises.

How about *I. aphylla*? Has this species brought remontancy to modern eupogons? This species is in the background of some tall bearded remontants.

In 1972, Bee Warburton wrote an article for the *Medianite* entitled "Is Iris Aphylla Remontant?" and concluded: "It is much more natural that the southern European plants, which have a natural summer dormancy and are winter evergreen, should bloom for a second time in late fall, than that a northern plant, which becomes dormant quite early in fall should make haste to put up some belated stalks before it goes to sleep for the long, cold winter. To be sure, just enough reports of such behavior come in to leave an open question, but on the other hand, there is no guarantee that such reports are not due merely to belated first flowering of plants that failed to show in their usual spring season. But then, there is the example of *I. Balkana* [generally considered a form of *I. reichenbachii*], which is also a deciduous species and doesn't ordinarily rebloom; but the Darby form nearly kills itself every fall with excessive second flowering. It certainly is possible that an occasional clone of *I. aphylla* might do this, too. Does anybody know of one?" Apparently no one has ever responded positively to this question.

As to the *I. aphylla* clone that rebloomed for Dykes, I can find no subsequent mention of it in iris literature. On the same basis that Dykes speculated that *I. lurida* is of hybrid origin, i.e. that it rebloomed at times, one might suspect that Dyke's reblooming *aphylla* was in fact a hybrid too. The hypothesis that *I. aphylla* has been a source of remontancy in modern irises does not seem to have factual support.

The idea that *I. trojana* might be important in the development of reblooming irises was first suggested to me by the extraordinary branching of many tall bearded irises that rebloom in areas with cold winters. This branching is often even more pronounced in the autumn inflorescence than in the spring. The branching habit also suggests *I. variegata* and *I. aphylla* as ancestors. Although some rebloomers have an *I. aphylla* heritage, most do not. But many modern tall bearded irises have *I. variegata* in their background. Branching alone would, therefore, be insufficient evidence to make a case for *I. trojana* as a remontancy source.

When I discovered that MORNING SPLENDOR (Shull, '23) was an occasional rebloomer in warmer climate areas, the case for *I. trojana* as a source of remontancy seemed a distinct possibility. MORNING SPLENDOR came from a cross of *I. trojana* X LENT A. WILLIAMSON and is in the genetic makeup of many modern rebloomers. One fact that did not immediately impress me, but which may be of even more significance in the search for remontant origin, is that MORNING SPLENDOR was an exceptionally wide cross. The pod parent of LENT A. WILLIAMSON was AMAS (*I. macrantha*). LENT A. WILLIAMSON and MORNING SPLENDOR were two of the first modern garden tetraploids to gain popularity in this country.

Research into the backgrounds of modern tall bearded remontant irises which effectively perform in cold winter areas reveals that certain ancestors appear more than any other. Perhaps the four most prominent of these remontant "studs" are AUTUMN KING, AUTUMN ELF, AUTUMN SUNSET, and GIBSON GIRL. Records on the early Sass irises, including AUTUMN KING, are incomplete and not dependable. But the cross that produced AUTUMN KING is believed to be AMAS X a blue tetraploid seedling with perhaps HONORABILE and MME CHEREAU in its background. The source of tetraploidy in the pollen parent was most probably AMAS or *I. trojana*.

AUTUMN ELF resulted from a cross of GERTRUDE X GRACCHUS. GRACCHUS, which dates from 1884, has the distinction, which it shares with HONORABILE, of having survived the infamous AIS blacklist of the 1920's. It is a hybrid of *I. variegata* and some other iris. It does not evidence *I. pallida* characteristics, but its open standards and short height might suggest a dwarf parent. Both AUTUMN SUNSET and GIBSON GIRL have backgrounds involving *I. trojana* and *I. variegata*.

Sometimes omission is as important as inclusion in gaining understanding. When one examines modern remontants that perform in colder areas, what one does not find is much of a heritage from *I. cypriana* or *I. mesopotamica*, whose huge flowers and dislike of England and the eastern and northern U.S. as growing environments so frustrated early iris hybridizers in those areas.

Anyone who gardens on the East Coast who has tried to grow certain warm weather rebloomers such as RED POLISH or JAUNTY TEXAN, irises with *I. mesopotamica*, in their backgrounds, can attest to what Dykes said about the tender Middle Eastern species: ". . . they suffer by reason of their habit of beginning to grow in the autumn, only to have the growths battered and broken, if not destroyed, by rough weather in the winter. The plants are then too feeble to flower in spring."

JAUNTY TEXAN was growing in my garden for 4 years before I saw a bloom, but it tried to bloom in the fall every year. It never succeeded in blooming in the spring. It was exhausted from the beating it received every December. When one goes back to the pedigree charts of the warm weather rebloomers, one usually finds a strong inheritance from *I. mesopotamica*. Most of the irises reputed to be strong warm weather area rebloomers are fairly vigorous growers in Virginia, which is not the case of many "once bloomers" from a *mesopotamica* or a true *cypriana* lineage. (An iris that was frequently grown in

England and the U.S. and called *I. cypriana* was actually *I. trojana*, resulting in a confusion of these two species. *I. trojana* thrives in the English type climate and soil; *I. cypriana* does not.)

BABY BLESSED (Zurbrigg, 1979) is the most dependable reblooming iris I grow. It seems to produce dependable rebloom in all except the harshest climates, and even produces bloom stalks in the far north from time to time. Its pod parent, BABY SNOWFLAKE, comes from BLUE SAPPHIRE X Welch H503, a form of *I. pumila*. It certainly would be difficult to believe that the SNOW FLURRY and CHIVALRY genes of BLUE SAPPHIRE could provide a source of remontancy. Did the occasional remontancy of BABY SNOWFLAKE come from the *pumila*?

The pollen parent of BABY BLESSED is TWICE BLESSED, which as Rundlett pointed out is derived from CLEAR SAILING X Schecht true *pumila*. CLEAR SAILING is not a remontant, but it does derive a strong heritage from *I. trojana* and *I. variegata* from such ancestors as TIFFANY, RAMESES and KING TUT, named cultivars that often appear in the pedigrees of remontants and remontant parents. Is the Schecht *pumila* the source of TWICE BLESSED'S remontancy? Unless the *pumila* is itself a remontant, or unless it is assumed that a mutation is involved, it is difficult to answer positively.

Both TWICE BLESSED and BABY SNOWFLAKE are occasional rebloomers in cold climate areas. They cannot be depended upon to rebloom every year. Both are first generation offspring of very wide crosses involving tall bearded irises with *I. pumila*. BABY BLESSED has rebloomed every summer and autumn in northern Virginia, and done so with abandon even when the weather made it "a bad year for rebloomers." It is a second generation product of two very wide crosses.

Based on the foregoing facts, there appears to be four "strains of remontancy" in our garden eupogon irises. First, there are the remontant intermediate irises resulting from various tall bearded irises crossed with *I. lutescens*. It has been known that *I. lutescens* is not a homogeneous form, but rather is a differentiated hybrid with two pairs of apparently unrelated kinds of chromosomes. The offspring of crosses involving tall bearded irises with this dwarf amphidiploid are sterile. If we classify remontants by origin, these irises comprise the *lutescens* strain.

The second strain of modern remontant irises are what we have come to call, in common parlance, cold climate tall bearded rebloomers. These irises are all hybrids. *I. variegata*, *I. trojana* and AMAS are common ancestors of these irises. Tetraploidy in these irises came through *I. trojana* and AMAS. This group of remontants may be referred to as the *variegata-trojana* strain.

The third fairly distinct type of reblooming iris is the warm climate rebloomer. These irises usually have a strong legacy from *I. mesopotamica* or *I. cypriana*, as well as from *I. variegata*. In areas of mild and dry winters, they are fairly reliable rebloomers. Only rarely do these irises rebloom in climates such as the East Coast of the U.S. or England. These irises constitute the *mesopotamica* strain. A number of hybridizers have worked to combine this type with the *variegata-trojana* type rebloomer to get improved flower size, form

and color; but the resultant progeny have usually not shown strong remontant tendencies. One of the best cultivars of the "mixed" type is EARL OF ESSEX.

A fourth strain of rebloomers involving tall bearded hybrids crossed with *I. pumila* has emerged in the last few years. BABY BLESSED, THIRD CHARM, and LITTLE BISHOP are examples of this type of iris. So are the older LITTLE BLACKFOOT and BABY SNOWFLAKE. We might call these irises the pumila strain.

The intermediate iris I BLESS (I Do X Baby Blessed) is an example of an iris that combines the genes of the variegata-trojana strain with the pumila strain. If, as I suspect, this type of iris offers outstanding potential for improved remontant irises that rebloom in various types of climates, we will be seeing more and more representatives of this group.

Probably all modern reblooming irises, including our modern remontant dwarfs, have some heritage from *I. variegata*. Most have some heritage from *I. trojana*, but this heritage is least in the warm climate rebloomers. In one strain of rebloomers, remontancy did not appear until *I. pumila* influence was introduced. In another strain of irises, *I. mesopotamica* figures prominently as a forebear; and this strain, while normally vigorous in nearly all parts of the U.S., does not rebloom often in cold climate areas.

For years I was amazed that Rundlett concluded "Whence the Remontants" with the assertion that remontancy is not caused by genetic factors but rather by "special climatic influences." Climate is an important factor influencing rebloom; but to deny the probability of genetic causes on this basis seemed to me to be an extreme conclusion. Based on the facts at hand I would not rule out a genetic origin for remontancy. However, as Rundlett undoubtedly believed, there may be *no specific gene for remontancy*.

A hint as to what causes remontancy is very likely to be found in the observation of Dykes: "... hybrids are more apt to flower a second time in autumn than are species." All who have experience growing reblooming irises know that they are as a group, the most vigorous eupogons. To accept the importance of hybrid vigor, or heterosis if you prefer the scientific term, as a major cause of remontancy, does not require a denial of the role played by genetics. The genes of *I. variegata*, *I. trojana*, *I. pumila*, and *I. mesopotamica*, when merged in different combinations, create something new and wonderful. But this product is "greater than the sum of its parts" because of heterosis. When very strongly expressed, the result may be an iris that reblooms under favorable climatic conditions.

Reprinted from The Reblooming Iris Recorder, Fall, 1989.

Southeast Texas Rambling Among Newer Louisiana Irises

Albert Faggard (Texas)

This past season was really a joy since I did not lose many scapes to the two late freezes like I had in 1983. I believe it was due to the fact that I reset so many plants very late because of our long, dry and extended mild winter. I have seen about 75 varieties or more this season in my yard, not to mention the garden visits Anne and I made to out of town gardens. Let me tell you about a few that added to my pleasure; this way I won't ramble too much.

When Neil Bertinot's irises came into bloom after that late season reset, I felt like my garden now had the cream of the crop. The garden visitors thought so also. BELLEVUE'S JASON, BELLEVUE'S MIKE, BELLEVUE'S NATIVE CHARMER, BILLY, BELLEVUE'S MICHELLE, BELLEVUE COQUETTE and BELLEVUE MEDICINE MAN, plus JERI were real crowd stoppers, not to mention that they added a new dimension for my plant breeding. JERI is always outstanding. It is a pure velvet dark rich black purple self. Excellent form and flower placement make it a garden standout. No wonder it won so many awards thus far. BELLEVUE'S JASON was an extremely fine bloomer as well as a visitor pleaser. It has four quality bud placements on strong, erect scapes. It is from ILA NUNN, which gave it stature, and CLARA GOULA, adding the nice ruffling. The color is cream to light yellow with pure yellow style arms and a green yellow signal. Always a favorite is the lovely ruffled bitone BELLEVUE'S MICHELLE. It is not extremely large, but it has so much class and a beautiful bitone coloration. It has darker grape falls and light grape standards with a flat to rolled down ruffled appearance. It produces multiple beauty up and down the scape. It is truly different from the ever fine bitone I really enjoy, CHARLIE'S MICHELLE. BELLEVUE BEAUTY was the last to bloom this season. It is a cream yellow and white bitone. Very nice indeed, too. I mentioned JERI, but for those who like the deep purple selfs like BLACK WIDOW, there is FULL ECLIPSE, BAJAZZO, PURPLE MEMORIES and another very good one called WINE COUNTRY. The latter was just introduced by Mary Dunn.

I had much excellent bloom on my little BAYOU SHORT STUFF. It is a low growing small blue purple. It should be nice in any garden since it is low enough and multiplies very well. We need a change of scenery from all the tall ones. I hope to accent the Japanese Magnolia in the front bed with this iris. Another low one, and even better, is the super fine THIS I LOVE. It is an award winning iris that is a flat, sweet rose pink, well formed and remains low all season. It also has very good growth habits and nice bloom placement.

When we were in St. Martinville this year, I got to again see Tim Hebert's BAYOU PRINCESS. This is an outstanding small white on low scapes with very good bud positions. It's the color of ACADIAN MISS, but even whiter. We are now on the way to producing small, low growing, well formed ruffled little

beauties that will accent the front beds of our taller Louisianas. What a treat this will be when more are developed like the ones hybridized by Frank Chowning, and now Tim Hebert.

This season I got to see Mary Dunn's DELTA DOWNS. I liked it as much as the horse races. It is a quality yellow with lots of green, outstanding substance and heavy ruffling. It was named for the race track in Vinton, Louisiana . . . perhaps you can bet this one will be a winner too. Mary's FAT TUESDAY was great. I couldn't add anything to this iris but praise. Another outstanding yellow was SUN DREAM by John Taylor. It is indeed a tall, well developed garden variety. Flowers are different from his magnificent Louisiana iris named KOORAWATHA. For those seeking bud placement, I recommend both. Every year it gets better.

Another exciting new one was GERRY MARSTELLER by Bob Raabe of Australia. It is a beautiful, large, ruffled, classic flower. This was one of the best in the garden this season. It is a lovely, very soft lavender rose with distinct edging on its falls and with lighter rose lavender standards. It has green yellow style arms and yellow green steeple signals which are hidden somewhat on this great 5 inch flower. It is about 31" tall and has four good bud positions.

JOEL FLETCHER by Dick Goula is totally different from his fine LAVENDER RUFFLES. It is a medium sized to large dark and light lavender bitone with purple styles, good ruffling and crinkle searsucker texture. It first appears thin, but is not, and holds the sun well. I had three strong scapes to really study on this one this season. It is also different from my lavender bitone, NECHES ROYALTY, that is beginning to draw good raves.

Another early bloomer that I liked, perhaps because I like solid colors, was SEA KNIGHT by Richard Morgan. It is an excellent deep, dark, rich blue self with a small hidden line signal and nice wide style arms. It was only 22"-25" tall, but perhaps next season without the late freezes it will be as tall as registered. It is from NEW OFFERING X CLYDE REDMOND, both of which are solid colors. I classified this one as a solid, ruffled beauty.

WINE COUNTRY, as I previously mentioned, was another dark, rich wine that will be as popular as the Napa Valley. The substance is thick with lots of ruffling from CHARLIE'S MICHELE and the coloring from BLUE SHIELD. The more it bloomed, the better it got. I like good wine, and I certainly like this WINE COUNTRY.

ODEAN MORGAN was one of the very first to bloom this year. It was especially nice, since I had heard to watch this one for a change of color. I was glad it also came early. The color is rich yellow from MISSEY REVELEY and ILA NUNN. It reflected a lower height pattern of the former and nice bloom placement which made it very noticeable in the garden.

Everyone wants things that stand out in the garden and ELUSIVE BUTTERFLY by Joe Ghio was extremely proficient in this area besides being very pretty. This iris has a very unusual shade of lavender, an airy flat, ruffled form and good sun holding qualities. It has a strong orange signal with blended

styles, tipped lavender to compliment its color. Perry Dyer of Oklahoma, a visitor in my garden, said it was his favorite. It was new to me, and I found I liked it also.

Mary Dunn is a fine quality breeder of Louisiana irises and her FAT TUESDAY, mentioned earlier, was an early bloomer. I would describe it as a large butter yellow with a lavender tan infusion, carrying green yellow style arms with butter yellow claws. It has thick broad flower parts with good scapes and four bud positions. It is a cross of CHARLIE'S MICHELE and HARLAND K. RILEY. It has a stately flat frypan look. You should get this one even if you can't go to Mardi Gras! Another of Mary's new irises is PIECE DE RESISTANCE. A super show stalk of this red cultivar with its five bud placements will make this a show winner as well as a good medium height garden iris. We need more good reds. Speaking of good reds other than ANN CHOWNING, Arny's CAJUNDOME is very nice indeed. This beet red with wide floral parts carries the good traits of ANN CHOWNING and CHARLES ARNY III but is very different. Its wide rolled down form displays large gold signals in a manner that looks like a gold dome from a distance.

FLAME ON by Henry Rowlan is a flaming dark wine red six-inch flower with heavy crisp texture, dark styles and a bold, large gold signal. Scapes are about 33" tall with four bud placements. It seems to multiply well, blooms early and certainly was noticeable. BILLY, another red, carried good red qualities. Henry Rowlan takes a lot of kidding, even by me, about his names, like VOODOO this and VOODOO that, but his VOODOO MUSIC was a bewitching beauty in my garden this season. It is a rich, deep violet purple with velvet texture and a white specific round starburst signal. This marking reaches a point of distinction, as it doesn't bleed out into the fall. It, too, will be a good show winner . . . if the lights are right. Another bright chipper new one was CHERRY CUP by Richard Morgan. Yes, 'Cherry' is right. It has a rich cherry red coloration and five fine bud positions. The bud placement is exciting and the show qualities good. It has its own personality and will remain in my garden a long time. If you like the flower placement and show qualities of DIXIE DEB, the oldie but goodie, you will love this medium-sized standout. It's the best I have seen in this color since CHERRY BOUNCE.

As you can tell, I could ramble on . . . and on . . . but had better quit. It was a good season for me—Just wait 'till you see my seedlings, three or four years down the road. My garden is now available for club tours as well as individuals, so come and see the progress made by so many good hybridizers.

Reprinted from Society For Louisiana Irises Newsletter, December, 1989.

Iris Postmark Available

Jerry Cathey (Oklahoma)

The Ponca City Main Street Authority's second annual Iris Festival will be held Saturday, May 5, 1990, in conjunction with the Northern Oklahoma Iris Society's second annual Judged Iris Show. To commemorate the occasion and festivities, the United States Post Office and the Ponca City Post Office will issue a one day only hand stamped pictorial postmark.

This year's Iris Festival postmark features a line drawing of two large bearded iris blossoms, flanking a likeness of Ponca City's famed "Pioneer Woman" bronze statue by Bryant Baker. The artist for the 1990 postmark is Ponca Citian, Joe Martin, Jr., a graphic designer. His bold rendering for the year's design truly captures the pioneering spirit as we move into the nineties.

Individuals are limited to 50 "hand back" postmarks. Those desiring a greater number of cancellations must get prior approval in writing and pay a fee. For those coming to the festival, various artists and organizations will have "cachet" envelopes available, or you may present your envelopes with or without artwork. The lobby of the main post office downtown will serve as the Iris Festival station with stamps for sale along with the postmark. Hours at the post office will be 8 am until 4 pm.

Last year's very successful premiere Iris Festival cancellation provided almost 7000 cancellations, and this year's count is expected to be higher. Anyone desiring the 1990 Iris Festival cancellation should enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, under cover (inside another envelope) and mail it to:

Postmaster
Iris Festival Station
Ponca City, OK 74601

The self-addressed envelope will be hand cancelled and mailed back to you on the day of the festival; May 5, 1990. As mentioned earlier, anyone who wants several envelopes postmarked must seek prior approval. For further information or to answer any questions regarding the postmark, please call the Ponca City Office at (405) 762-2485.



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Hybridizing with Unusual Members of the Hexagonae

Joseph K. Mertzweiller (Louisiana)

It has occurred to me that there may be much to be gained by stressing unusual irises in the *Hexagonae* and their use in hybridizing. The best example I can think of is CREOLE CAN CAN and the excellent hybridizing work done by Marvin Granger. I would like to think of my 1984 effort with RUTH HOLLEYMAN as the beginning of a new hybridizing program which will extend into the future.

Work With Ruth Holleyman

All the 1984 seeds, particularly those with RUTH HOLLEYMAN as pollen parent, germinated fairly well, in the range of 25-55%. Those with RUTH HOLLEYMAN as pod parent germinated only 15-20% and the selfed seed less than 5%. The pollen parent seedlings seemed moderately vigorous, but the pod parent seedlings and selfed seedlings were much less vigorous. My preliminary conclusion is that RUTH HOLLEYMAN as pod parent with diploids may give quite different results than as pollen parent. I cannot give any reasonable genetic explanation for this. Since most triploids are sterile, the general behavior of RUTH HOLLEYMAN is definitely unusual.

Another problem was due to keeping the seedlings in flats over the summer. Hot and dry conditions resulted in considerable losses. Five of six seedlings from RUTH HOLLEYMAN X PRESIDENT HEDLEY were lost as were all three self seedlings. In September, 1985, I planted out about 60 seedlings having RUTH HOLLEYMAN as pollen parent but only one seedling as pod parent.

Other hybridizing work was done in 1985. Although there were several blooming size plants, the bloom was very poor. It is a very early bloomer and extreme cold in January caused several scapes to abort, and there was general inhibition of bloom. I had only one fair scape of RUTH HOLLEYMAN for hybridizing work.

Hybridizing results were generally comparable to 1984. With RUTH HOLLEYMAN as pod parent, one of three attempts set using pollen from a white seedling (No. 78-72, CLARA GOULA background). This was the only pollen available at the time. The pod contained 29 seeds, 9 very large and 20 medium size. Size differences were striking and could have some meaning in terms of ploidy level. The different sizes were segregated in planting. Preliminary germination results were 67% for the large seeds and 65% for the small. All appear moderately vigorous, but it is too early to tell.

With RUTH HOLLEYMAN as pollen parent the seed set was near 100% as in 1984. Set was obtained with ANN CHOWNING (95%), COLORIFIC (23%), FREDDIE BOY (37%), CLARA GOULA (67%), CLYDE REDMOND (0%) and white seedling No. 70-58 (85%). Preliminary germination values are in parentheses. Most seedlings show moderate vigor except those of 70-58 which appear very vigorous.

TRIPLE TREAT

This is the other known triploid in the *Hexagonae*, reported to be a triploid *I. brevicaulis* of unknown fertility. I have never seen it and am not sure it exists today; several inquiries gave no indication of its existence. Hybridizing with TRIPLE TREAT may be outside the realm of possibility. If any reader has knowledge of a source of this Louisiana iris, I will be grateful to know about it. Otherwise, it appears to have joined the many other old and important irises which are no longer available.

AL ALLEMAN'S 'Nanan' (Unregistered)

This is an interesting story which I hope will have a happy ending. Mr. Alleman is the Garden Editor of the *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate-State Times* and has a great interest in all plants. About 1960 Al gave Fred Buchmann and me a Louisiana iris he referred to as 'Nanan' (French for aunt). Al said he grew this iris for years and got it from his aunt who grew it for years. Otherwise, nothing is known as to its age and origin.

'Nanan' is a very unusual iris. It is some 6 in. across, an estimated 20-24" tall with a zig-zag scape and fairly dark blue color. It blooms in late April or early May and would appear to be an *I. brevicaulis*. Because of the size the possibility exists it could be a polyploid (triploid or even tetraploid). Unfortunately, I no longer have this iris, and I did not realize it's possible value when first obtained. As I learned more about polyploidy, the potential of this iris became more apparent. Some hybridizing effort appeared warranted and might shed some light on the ploidy level.

In spring, 1985, Al kindly provided a scape in flower from which I obtained pollen, approximate dimensions and photographs. All the pollen was used, 17 pollinations on diploids and 10 on tetraploids. No seed was set. One diploid pod matured to some extent but did not contain seed. These results are cause to speculate 'Nanan' either has unusual ploidy (not diploid) or the pollen is sterile, or both.

What about 'Nanan' as pod parent? I checked my early records back to 1960. Admittedly, these records leave much to be desired, but it seems I did obtain a few seeds. Unfortunately, I have no records about germination. Al's supply of this iris is very limited, but he gave me two small plants.

MENTIDA

Another unusual iris which would seem to have hybridizing potential is MENTIDA originated by Mr. Sam Norris of Owensboro, Kentucky, who grew it from species seed distributed by SIGNA (AIS Section on Species). Mr. Norris also treated the small plants with colchicine, and he and Mr. Ben Hager consider this iris may be some type of chimera. This background aroused my interest and considerable communications with Mr. Norris. Unfortunately, there is no real certainty about the ploidy level. Also, I have been unable to trace the source or type of species seed from which it originated.

MENTIDA is commercially available, and in 1984 I obtained two rhizomes. Although both were good, large rhizomes, growth was very sluggish in late summer, fall and winter, and I was doubtful about bloom. Not only did both

rhizomes bloom, but there were two smaller scapes on the side growth, very small rhizomes indeed. Flowers were small, 4 inches or less and very dark purple. Scapes were 16-24 inches and bloom occurred in late April and early May. These features are characteristic of *I. brevicaulis*. There was none of the size dissymmetry which characterized most of the early chimeras from my colchicine work. It seems that MENTIDA is either a different type of chimera or has at least partially reverted to diploid. Further observations are necessary.

No seed was set with MENTIDA as pod parent with either diploid or tetraploid pollen (12 attempts). Using MENTIDA pollen 10 generally small pods were set in 13 attempts with diploid pod parents. Most of these contained less than normal amounts of seed. The best was a cross of KATHERINE CORNAY X MENTIDA which gave 9 vigorous seedlings. These are most likely diploids, but should be late bloomers and adaptable to cold locations. Several attempts, Tetraploids X MENTIDA, gave one very poorly developed seed which did not germinate.

'Enigma' (Not registered)

This is the single seedling I obtained in an extensive (three year) effort to produce Diploid X PROFESSOR IKE progeny. I believe this single seedling is the best evidence that PROFESSOR IKE and the other "Professors" are tetraploid. This "odd ball" is now ten years old, has never bloomed here and only a single plant remains with me. But I have not given up. This single plant is now being grown under semi-water culture which I hope will improve growth, reproduction and ultimately bloom.

Two years ago I sent a single plant to Bob Raabe in Australia. Bob obtained improved growth, reproduction and a bloom in October, 1984. The bloom was obtained under conditions of extreme drought and may or may not have been representative. Bob's descriptions and comments follow. Unfortunately there are no photographs.

"The color is rather unusual, a pale smokey purple—sort of antiqued pink. (Note: The pod parent was an unregistered pink diploid). It is full and all floral parts are gracefully waved. SUBSTANCE IS LIKE NOTHING I HAVE EVER SEEN!! I would describe the blooms of some tets as "waxy", but this was almost as if the bloom had been cast in ceramics! Amazing! All in all it really is a unique Louisiana and already I look forward to next year when it will surely be more spectacular. Yes, it has pollen, but the anthers are very short and wide. The only thing in bloom I attempted a cross with is PROFESSOR IKE, and I did that several times, both ways." (Note: This is no further information about these attempts.)

These descriptions and background strongly suggest 'Enigma' is of unusually high ploidy level, possibly hexaploid or even octoploid. In *Garden Irises* page 320, Professor Randolph describes a near hexaploid bearded iris (THORBASH) resulting from a diploid pollinated with a tetraploid. He attributes this to spontaneous (natural) chromosome doubling of a triploid fertilized egg or early embryonic cell from which the plant developed. Randolph further reports this to be the only known hexaploid bearded iris, and *to lack most desirable features, propagate slowly, have small flowers of very*

heavy substance and completely sterile. More observations and work with 'Enigma' will be necessary to confirm this speculation.

Finally, I am considering many other approaches to this type of hybridizing with unusual members of the *Hexagonae*. It is likely to be difficult, time-consuming and frustrating with successes few and far between. But a few successes may be very rewarding. Other unusual Louisiana irises are needed for the program. If any reader has a Louisiana which seems unusual in any respect (color, form, size, bloom time, etc.) and is willing to contribute a plant or two to this program, they are asked to communicate with the writer. (Joseph K. Mertzweiller's address is 9266 North Parkview Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815.)

Reprinted from Society for Louisiana Irises Newsletter, June, 1986.



PIECES OF ICE (R. NELSON '90) TB 38" ML \$35.00

Large ruffled silvery violet blue flowers with darker violet beards. Super stalks often display four flowers at once with no crowding. Vigorous. Best Seedling Tulsa '88.

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1990 INTRODUCTIONS FROM BARBARA & STERLING INNERST



TENNESSEE WOMAN

TENNESSEE WOMAN—Sdlg. 2988-5.

TB 36" E-M. Brown stds.; very white falls with heavy purple trim. Very clean, 3 branches, 7-9 buds. Beautiful stalks and clump. Fertile. Colortrak X Ted Shiner **\$25.00**

TENNESSEE GENTLEMAN will be introduced in '91. In 1988, I was scheduled to visit the fall meeting in Tennessee, but ended up hospitalized for several weeks and had to cancel. In 1989, I

was rescheduled when Hurricane Hugo stranded me at the airport with no flight available for 24 hours. By the time this ad appears, I should have appeared in Tennessee in Feb. '90. These two irises are named in honor of all my friends in Tennessee. **\$25.00**

RUFFLED FEATHERS—Sdlg. 1982-5. TB 32-34" M-L. Brown stds., white falls trimmed dark chocolate brown. Excellent stalk with 3 branches and 6 buds. Never opens more than 2 blooms at a time, long bloom period. Dramatic garden subject. Fertile. Ted Shiner X Burgundy Brown. **\$25.00**

HELIACAL CARNELIS—Sdlg. 2149-14. TB 36" M-L. Clear full yellow stds., red falls. Perfect stalks with 3 branches having 8-9 buds. Clean clumps with marvelous garden effect. Fertile both ways. Show Biz X Gypsy Caravan **\$25.00**

BERTWISTLE—Sdlg. 2187-13. TB 36" M-L. White with falls trimmed mid-yellow. Three branches, 7 buds, fertile both ways. Eastertime X Beverly Sills **\$25.00**

PARAGRAPH—Sdlg. 1562-1. BB. Ruffled grey white self, 3 branches, 7 buds. Has never outgrown its 19" height. Perfect proportions. Pink Taffeta X Madeira Belle **\$15.00**

HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY—Sdlg. 3379-2. IB 20" M-L. White stds., white falls with ice blue wash more concentrated beneath beard, 7 buds, excellent form. Scented Nutmeg X (Little Episode x Pippi Longstockings) **\$10.00**

LESSON—Sdlg. 3235-5. SDB 10" M-L. Full blue with near perfect form; white beards tipped yellow; 3 buds, excellent form. Rain Dance X ((Gentle Smile x Mystic Symbol) x (Gentle Smile x Stockholm)). **\$7.50**

LEARN—Sdlg. 3390-1. SDB 10" M-L. Warm pink self, 2 branches, 5 buds. Very floriferous. ((Betsy Boo x Cherub Tears) x (Soft Air x Pink Cushion)) X Bright Vision **\$7.50**

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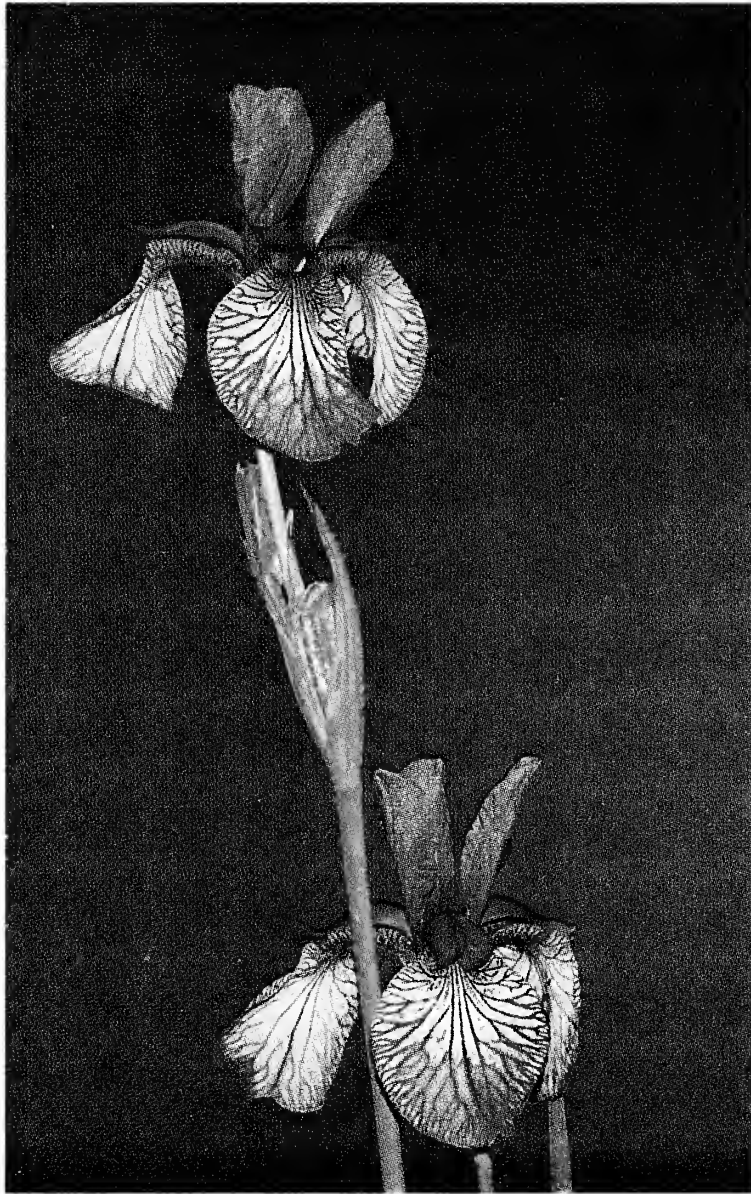
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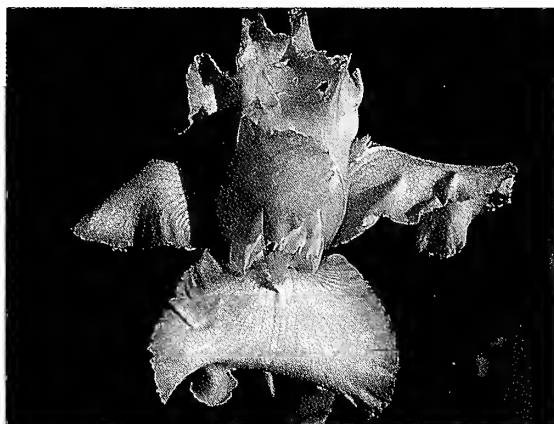
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ACOMA (Tom Magee '90) TB 30" E Indian sky city. Wide upright ruffled sky cloud blue stds. Wide horizontal desert white ruffled falls edged with light violet plicata street map. Adobe beards. EC 87 & 88, HC 88. (((Cook 2754 x Claudia Rene) x Orchid Brocade) x Ann Johnson 70220B: (After All x Moon River)) X Capricious \$35.00



RHINEMAIDENS (Tom Magee '90) BB 24" E Chaste white with glimmerings of gold outside upright ruffled stds. and river rippling gold halo on ruffled F. Gold treasure beneath the F. Beards Das Rhinegold. Falls tend to seductively recurve. Whenever music clangs of Nibelheim, the ruffle from under the recurved F. illumines Alberich's RING. (Colorado Sunshine x White Lightning) X Mountain Sunbeams. \$20.00



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KERMIT '90	Chartreuse with blue blaze
MORNING SHOW '88	Cardinal red self
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AIN'T SHE SWEET '86	White with flax blue edging
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LOVES TUNE '86	White, gentian blue beards
MAMA HOOHOO '86	Indian yellow
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Mildred Miller Brizendine

By Lucy Fry

It was the early 60's when our interest in median irises brought us to Roy and Mildred Brizendine. We had known who they were for some time. *They* were the nationally known hybridizers, and we were in great awe of their accomplishments. Over the years we became close friends and enjoyed making an annual trek to Topeka to view their seedlings. They were most generous in their encouragement of new hybridizers, and we were among the many they shared seedlings with. Roy, Mildred, and Sam Street encouraged Wichita to have its first early show. Sam and Mildred served as judges and set a high standard to measure up to. No iris got a ribbon that did not deserve it.

Mildred was born in Topeka on July 20, 1902, to Alma and John S. Miller. She taught for 19 years in schools in Nebraska and Topeka. She married Roy in 1943 and from the time he sold their mill working shop in 1956, they were never apart as they pursued their iris hybridizing. Roy introduced many award winning irises, and so did Mildred. She introduced irises in all classes of medians, including award winners Joybringer, Little Chestnut, Shine Boy, and Zing, the Cook-Douglas Award winner in 1966. Roy and Mildred were awarded the Hybridizers' Medal in 1970, and we saw it presented at the 1971 Convention here in Wichita. None deserved it more.

The Brizendine Garden was gradually disbanded over about three years before Roy died in 1976. Mildred's irises have continued to win awards. Funny Face (MDB) and her Aril-median, Jacob's Well, have recently earned the HM.

Mildred died peacefully on December 28, 1989. She is survived by Roy's daughter, Ethel Harwood of Albuquerque and by a brother, Robert L. Miller, of Topeka.

We will miss her visit each spring as she carefully evaluated seedlings and new introductions with comments and suggestions. We didn't always agree, but we dearly loved her.

Paul H. Hoffmeister

By Betty Wood

Paul Hoffmeister died on October 8, 1989, from a bone and blood cancer that had been worsening over a period of about eight years. It was the end of a remarkably full and rich life.

Paul was born on April 1, 1912 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He went to Montclair State Teachers College and became a teaching principal, first in sixth grade, then in high school in Bergenfield, NJ. After a period of service in the navy, he returned to Bergenfield where he was made full principal of the high school and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1970.

Paul and Jean were married on August 29, 1936, and they had many common interests. Both were musical, playing both piano and organ. They were active in a summer theatre group where Jean was on stage as an actress and Paul did everything from stage hand to building the set. Their son Barry was born in 1943.

All irisarians know how active Paul and Jean were in growing and promoting the iris in New Jersey and throughout the country. Their garden was a welcome sight for frequent visitors and was one of those on the convention tour when the national convention of the American Iris Society was held in New Jersey. Among the successful results of their hybridizing were such fine irises as TRES JOLIE and ORITAM.

Paul was at one time Regional Vice President of Region 19 of the AIS and thus also President of the Garden State Iris Society. He and Jean attended many of the national conventions of the AIS.

When they moved to Neavitt, Maryland, in 1970 Paul could enjoy another of his many interests, boating. Of course they had a garden there, all around their lovely corner property with a view of Chesapeake Bay. They became very active in the local iris group, organizing meetings and trips. Paul was the organist of the local church and a volunteer in the St. Michaels Maritime Museum and the St. Michaels library.

Another of Paul's talents was art. His water color paintings are excellent and are hung in the public buildings in Neavitt.

When Jean died of a long illness on December 20, 1985, Paul was fortunate to have his son Barry with him. Barry is also a teacher and Paul was proud of Barry's skill in constructing and flying the large model airplanes that are his hobby. In the last weeks of Paul's life, Barry spent full time in caring for his father.

What an extraordinary life! A life of enriching influence on children, of loving friendship of family and friends, of participation in art through drama, music, and painting, of boating and gardening—a life well spent and long to be remembered by his friends.

BULLETIN BOARD

East German Wants Iris Pen Pal

A request has been received from Uwe Kirschstein, Altenhofer Str. 4, Eberswalde-Finow, GDR-1302, EAST GERMANY, who would like to correspond with an American iris fancier both to learn more about irises and to polish English writing skills. The letters will be in English and will be quite legible. If an AIS member is interested in becoming a pen pal with this man, contact him at the address above.

OMISSION FROM LIST OF JUDGES

The name of Mrs. George Lankow was omitted from the list of judges for Region 13 in the January, 1990 Bulletin.

OCTOBER COVER

The garden pictured on the cover of the October, 1989 Bulletin is the Mid America Garden of Paul Black in Oklahoma City.

1990 CONVENTION REMINDER

Information regarding registration for the 1990 Convention in Omaha is found on page 7 of the January, 1990 issue. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ADDRESS FOR KAY NELSON IS INCORRECT ON THAT PAGE—THE CORRECT BOX NUMBER IS 37613.

Registrations received by May 1—\$133; After May 1—\$144. Make checks payable to 1990 AIS Convention and mail to Kay Nelson, P.O. Box 37613, Omaha, NE 68137.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

The deadline for copy for the AIS Bulletins is April 15 for the July issue. Other deadlines are July 15 for the October issue; October 15 for the January issue, and January 15 for the April issue.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the January, 1990 issue of the Region 14 Bulletin, Bill Rinehart of southern California makes a comment that should give all judges something to think about. Quoting Bill, "Right now, subject to change at a moment's notice, Ringo is my favorite flower and my favorite cultivars are Honky Tonk Blues, Crystalyn, and Dusky Challenger."

Awards should go to cultivars and not flowers, so each judge should remember this statement when it comes time for evaluation for awards.

Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens

Mike Moller (Colorado)

The first year of the Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens has been a success. During the first year over 20 hybridizers sent donations to be tested over a three year period. Many AIS Judges in Region 20 participated in an evaluation of all guest irises. Every guest was point scored by at least three judges, according to the AIS Judges Handbook. The point scoring was entered into a computer and results were tabulated. These results were mailed to every hybridizer that had guest irises in the garden. Along with the actual point scores on each iris, judges tried to give comments on each iris to help the hybridizer know how his iris is growing.

The Elmohr Iris Society is committed to award those irises that judges feel deserve special recognition. The highest judged iris is a very beautiful gold and brown iris named SPICED CIDER. This is a 1989 introduction of Neva Sexton by Paul Black. This iris has an amazingly strong texture that seems almost leather-like. SPICED CIDER was point scored with average of 85 points out of possible 100 points.

Besides making an award to the highest judged iris, the Elmohr Iris Society will also make awards to any irises the judges feel are new improvements in iris hybridizing. This year the society would like to recognize TENNISON RIDGE for outstanding improvement in plicata TB iris. This iris was introduced by Jim Begley in 1989. Jim provided us with two rhizomes of this iris. One rhizome scored an 80 for second place and the other rhizome scored a 71 to tie for sixth place. The judges were really impressed with branching, bud count, and overall garden value of this iris.

The third place iris with a score of 78 was CONJURATION, a 1989 introduction from Monty Byers. It can best be described as an Alpine Castle, with horns. Fourth place went to a Stahly seedling number 87-5, with a score of 77. Judges felt this iris had the best stalk of any iris in the garden. Fifth place was INDIAN CERAMICS by Dave Niswonger. It scored a 72 with most judges impressed by the color and distinctiveness of the flower.

Sixth place with a score of 71 was shared by three irises. CRANBERRY CRUSH by Terry Aitken, TENNISON RIDGE by Jim Begley, and WONDEROUS by Monty Byers. CRANBERRY CRUSH was a beautiful bi-color with possible MYSTIQUE parentage, that also had flowers that lasted four days each. WONDEROUS was just that, with a pink flower, a bright red beard, and long white horns. Seventh place was shared by GLITZ N' GLITTER, a Paul Black 1988 introduction, and POTION by Monty Byers. GLITZ N' GLITTER has a very unusual color pattern of yellow and violet. This iris received a perfect 10 for distinctiveness and may be a future Loomis award winner. POTION was recognized for its excellent garden plant characteristics. Eighth place was another Monty Byers iris called HER ROYAL HIGHNESS. This deep violet colored iris had huge flowers. Ninth place was a tie between three irises.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF by Franklin Carr, DM83-1B a seedling by David Miller, and MOONLIT by Monty Byers, Tenth place with a score of 66 went to VIDA, by M. Daling. Other irises that scored well in the garden include Monty Byers' CLASS ACT, PHENOMENON, D161-4, and SCENTED BUBBLES. Lola Quinn's seedling registered LOLA'S DELIGHT. SUMMER WHITE, introduced by Franklin Rodgers. I LOVE LACE, a Jack Durrance introduction. Tom Magee had three guests that scored well, ACOMA, BANANA MARGARITA, and GARDEN FROCK.

The percentage of bloom for the first year of this garden was about 20% which is rather low for our region. The area had some very late frost that stunted the growth of several bloomstalks. The percentage of loss due to rot was about 3%, which is very low. Most rhizomes had very good growth for one year plants and should do very well next year.

One thing we are keeping close track of is the possibility of rebloom. Normally irises in this region do not fall bloom due to the shorter growing season. In over 10 years of iris growing in the region I have seen fewer than 5 fall blooms. This year the Loomis Gardens has had continuous fall bloom from August 1 until the date of this report which is October 15. Two hybridizers have provided us with these fall miracles, Frank Jones and Monty Byers. Frank Jones irises include two white seedlings J79-27 and J79-67. Each of these irises has provided four bloomstalks starting in early August and continuing to bloom at this time. GRAPE ADVENTURE and AUTUMN BUGLER have both provided three bloomstalks. Frank Jones wonderful IB introduction called LADY EMMA has produced five bloomstalks starting in August and had flowers until October 1.

Monty Byers irises that have fall bloomed include ETERNAL BLISS, EASTER LACE, BILLIONAIRE, BUCKWHEAT, HIGH HO SILVER, and DEITY. Fall blooming seedlings of Monty's include D44-101RE, D70-101RE, and C-52-3RE. The most outstanding of these irises was HIGH HO SILVER with four outstanding show stalks spread over six weeks time.

With a total of 14 irises sending up a multitude of bloomstalks, the garden has really instilled a new hope for rebloomers in Colorado. I'm sure many of these varieties will be sought after by iris lovers in cold climates.

This year 23 hybridizers donated just over 150 guest irises. Twelve of these hybridizers did not participate last year, so we are glad to see an increase of participation from across the country. We have room for over 400 guests each year, so we encourage as many people as possible to send guest irises. We will accept named and numbered irises. All irises will be judged equally. This area is good for MDB's, SDB's, IB's, BB's, MTB's, and TB's. Siberians and Spuria irises will also do well in this region. We would also like to test Louisiana and Japanese irises. Many iris lovers in the region shy away from these types because of lack of knowledge of their growth in the region. I have one Japanese iris that bloomed in my yard this summer, so there is hope.

If you have any questions about this garden, write Mike Moller, 3455 Vallejo Court, Colorado Springs, CO. 80918.

GARDEN OF THE EAST WIND

Mel & Lynn Bausch

11530 N. Laguna Drive

Mequon, Wisconsin 53092

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS '90, SDB, 11½", E. Pale lavender and tan blended standards; light yellow style arms; light yellow and tan blended falls; ruffled and laced; lavender beards tipped gold. Slight fragrance. Flirty Mary X Track Fiddler. **\$12.50**

SECOND OPINION '88, MTB, 24", M. Tailored pale lavender standards; lavender styles; dark red violet falls edged pale lavender; yellow beards tipped red violet; lavender whiskers down sides of falls. No fragrance. Carolyn Rose X Consummation. HC '82. **\$10.00**

Please include \$1.50 for shipping and handling

NEW CRAIG TETRAPLOID IRISES FOR 1990

LITTLE MISTY—MTB. Vigorous, evergreen, lavender blue bitone with very pale standards. **\$19.00**

DANCING FOUNTAIN—IB. Blue white standards, light blue falls, medium blue area in center, white area by yellow beards. . . . **\$15.00**

LUSCIOUS LASS—IB. Oxblood red self with dark yellow beards. **\$15.00**

SHINING DEBUT—IB. Ruffled, flaring blue bitone, medium blue veins. **\$15.00**

LOVE SPRING—TB, 38". Sparkling, heavily ruffled white plicata banded and dotted pale lavender blue. Good bud count. **\$25.00**

DEBUTANTE BALL—TB, 40". Large unique white stitched pale lavender, medium yellow rims on standards and falls. **\$25.00**

1989 Introductions

PAYOFF—MTB. Beige and pinkish lavender. **\$17.50**

LITTLE STYLIST—IB. Blended blue violet bitone. **\$12.00**

STEP AHEAD—IB. Rich blue violet self. Showy. **\$12.00**

REFORMATION—IB. Warm white standards, lavender falls. **\$12.00**

Send first class stamp for descriptive price list

Postage and handling—\$2.50

JIM & VICKI CRAIG 16325 S.W. 113th Ave. Tigard, OR 97224

BROWN'S SUNNYHILL GARDENS

Route 3, Box 102

Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

1990 Introductions

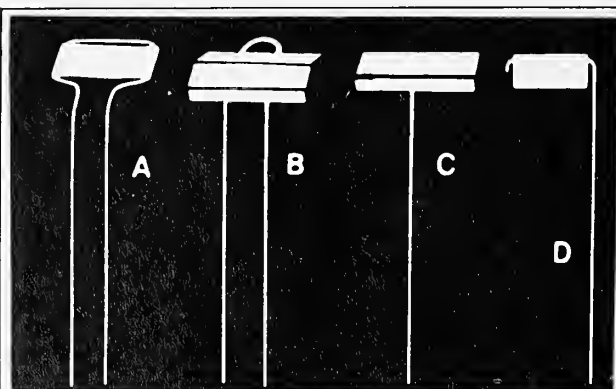
FAIRY MEADOW (O. Brown '90) TB, 28", M. I would like to call this a 'small tall' except there isn't that category. Very ruffled and flaring white with fine gold edge on all petals and bright fine red beards. Standards are well closed and falls artistically fluted. 7 buds. Sdlg. 82-20 C3, involving Arctic Flame, Old Flame, Buffy, Spring Bride and Royal Coachman. **\$20.00**

FLOWERFIELD (O. Brown '90) TB, 36-38", M. Large ruffled flowers with closed standards of Orient pink and semi-flaring falls of near white with crinkled pink edges and pink blush on shoulders. Bright mandarin red beards, 7 well spaced buds. Sdlg. 83-5C12: Glass Slippers X Gold Trim-mings. **\$30.00**

GOLDEN FROLIC (O. Brown '90) TB, 28", M. This could also be classified as a 'small tall'. Cupped standards of bright canary yellow and flaring white falls, edged gold. Wide, thick, deep orange beards. All petals and styles are heavily laced. Waxlike substance permits long bloom, 7 to 8 well spaced buds. Sdlg. 82-18A, inv. Arctic Flame, Old Flame, Grandiflora, Buffy, Baroque, Saber Dance and Silver Showers. **\$20.00**

ORIENTAL FLAIR (O. Brown '90) TB, 34", M. Wide, fluted and ruffled with nicely held standards and flaring falls. Spanish orange with pink influence in standards. The wide, thick beards of deep orange add distinction and interest. A favorite here last season, 7 well spaced buds. Sdlg. 82-20B1: (Mystic Vision x Neon Magic) X (Old Flame x (Spring Bride x Royal Coachman)). **\$30.00**

SPRING FAIR (O. Brown '90) TB, 34", M. Sib to Oriental Flair except this is lavender pink. Falls a bit lighter than standards and sport henna orange beards. Semi-flaring and ruffled, 7 buds. Another favorite last season! **\$30.00**



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EON INDUSTRIES, 315 Dodge Street, Dept. I, Swanton, OH 43558.

BURCH IRIS GARDEN

205 Knox Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35811

1990 Introductions

STARSTRUCK—TB. Brightly domed, ruffled orange standards are almost coral at midribs. Falls are wide and rounded. Red-orange beard lightens to a white spot on the falls. This lovely iris holds up well in rain. **\$30.00**

BIG VICTORY—BB. This border bearded iris has very lacy, ruffled icy white standards and falls. The gold beard is tipped pale blue near the ending on falls and is slightly yellowed on hafts around the beard. **\$20.00**

MANUSCRIPT—TB. Standards, tightly closed like rose buds, are a pale red violet. The large falls are slightly lighter and are overlapping at hafts. The gold beard turns to self on falls. Show stalks open with 3 large blooms at a time. Color and texture and sun and rain resistant. **\$30.00**

AZTEC AFFLUENCE (83) Yellow ground reddish-brown plicata,
HC 82. **\$2.50**

BALLAD OF DIXIE (83) Pale yellow self, HC 83. **\$2.50**

BAMA BERRY (84) White ground dark pink plicata, HM 86. **\$5.00**

BLUE TEMPEST (79) S. light blue, F. violet, HM 82. **\$2.50**

DIXIE CLASSIC (89) Brown, orange beard. **\$20.00**

ELIZABETH CAROL (86) Red black self, HC 83. **\$6.00**

FROSTY JEWELS (79) Leathery light pink self, HM 81, AM 83. **\$2.50**

GOING PLACES (89) Red violet self, many blooms. **\$20.00**

JWELED STARLIGHT (80) Yellow and white, HM 82. **\$2.50**

KIRSCH BB (84) Reddish purple, overlaid black, HM 86. **\$3.00**

LARCENIST (89) Pink self, showy stalk. **\$20.00**

MISS NELLIE BB (83) S. yellow, F. yellow, red, purple blend, HM 85,
AM 87, Runner-up for Knowlton Medal 89. **\$2.50**

OCEAN SWELLS (86) Pale blue self that fades to white in heat. **\$4.00**

OPTIMIST (83) Light yellow self. **\$2.50**

PATRICIAN ELEGANCE (84) Buff orange and white. **\$2.50**

ROMAN LOVER (82) Velvety red violet bitone, HM 84. **\$2.50**

SOUTHLAND GRAPE (78) Violet with bronze beard, HM 80, AM 82. **\$2.50**

WHITE TOKEN (81) White self with gold beard. **\$2.50**

WONDERSTRUCK (81) Pale violet self, gold hafts. **\$2.50**

*Please include \$4 to partially cover the expenses of packing and shipping.
Order from this ad—no catalog.*

INTRODUCTIONS FROM DAVE NISWONGER

- ANNIE'S DRESS** (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. SDB 11-85: Tarheel Elf X sib. SDB, 10" Mid. A maroon red with well rounded falls, nice form, with pale blue beards. Sets seeds reluctantly, pollen O.K. \$15.00
- APRIL FOG** (Nichols-Niswonger '90) Captured Spirit X Mystique. IB, 20", Mid. Almost a reverse amoena with blue stds. and near white falls. The beards are blue white and the plant vigorous. \$15.00
- BLUE CHIP PINK** (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. 40-87: Pink Blue Genes X 9-84: (Center Fold X Rudolph 79-05). TB, 34", Mid. This vigorous pink wih blue beards has rebloomed in the west. It comes from a long line of Nate Rudolph's pinks and Orville Fay's blues crossed in with my line of "pinks with blue beards." It forms a clump quickly with show type stalks. The pink is more of a lilac pink or blue pink as compared with its pod parent. This is a pink that is different and I think will be enjoyed for many years. It is very fertile both ways. \$35.00
- CREAM CAKE** (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. SDB 9-97: Petite Pink X SDB 5- 83: (Marmalade Skies X Unknown). SDB, 11", Mid. A lemon yellow with a white rim around the falls. The stds. are a bit lighter in color perhaps because there is some amoena in its background. Fertile. \$15.00
- KIWI CAPERS** (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. SDB 5-85: SDB 5-83: (Marmalade Skies X unknown) X Petite Pink. SDB, 12", Mid. It comes from the reciprocal cross of Cream Cake, but is pink with a violet blaze around the hafts which extend about halfway down the falls. Fertile. \$15.00
- KIWI SLICES** (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. 14-87: Silver Rain X unknown. SDB, 12", Mid. The nice ruffled semi-flared falls of this well formed beauty is not the whole story. I think you will be captivated by the color of chartreuse with a burgundy splash in the falls and gray-blue beards. This cross of over 100 seedlings brought forth many unusual shades of blue-green-mustard and gray. Fertile both ways. \$15.00
- MISSOURI RIVERS** (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. Sp 3-86: Missouri Streams X unknown, probably a self. Spuria, 38", Mid. A really blue iris with some ruffles and extra wide falls. The smooth yellow blaze in the falls makes an attractive combination. Fertile both ways. \$25.00
- PINK BLUE GENES** (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. 58-63: N. Rudolph 79-05: (Inv. 12 generations of Nate's breeding incl. Pink Slight, Northbrook, Fleeta, May Hall, etc.) X 46-80: (Singing Skies X Lilac Thrill). TB, 33", Mid. A pink with a blue beard that has proven to be a good breeder. It sets seeds easily and its pollen is fertile too. Other breeders may be working this line and these genes should be included. Besides that, it's a nice easy growing iris that everyone should enjoy. \$30.00

SLAP BANG (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. SDB 13-85: Fire One X 2-81: (Byword X unknown). SDB, 10", Mid. This sib to Splash of Red is a full yellow variegated with dark red falls edged with a sharp rim of deep yellow. An attention getter!. **\$15.00**

SULTAN'S SASH (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. Sp. 4-81: Cinnamon Stick X Redwood Supreme. Spuria, 40", Mid. This semi-flared deep red violet with yellow infused in the falls should make an interesting addition to your spuria patch. It takes the winters quite well and is an easy bloomer. Fertile. **\$25.00**

TRANQUIL SUNSHINE (Niswonger '90) Sdlg. 36-85: Tranquil Star X Coral Beauty. TB, 36", Mid. Coming from pink amoena breeding, it was too good to pass up. This yellow bitone with its wide four-way branching will have a minimum of 9 buds. It will easily open four blooms at one time and makes a floriferous clump in no time. Fertile both ways. **\$35.00**

*6 Medians for \$60.00, plus shipping.
Enclose \$3.00 for shipping. Catalog \$1.00 refundable.*

CAPE IRIS GARDENS

822 Rodney Vista Blvd. Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Phone (314) 334-3383

**KANSAS RAINBOW GARDEN
Robert (Bob) Jeffries**

Route 1, Box 51 Healy, Kansas 67850
Introducing for 1990

BUILDER QUEEN—TB, 36", VE-M. Domed and touching salmon pink standards; semi-flaring orphiment orange falls; nasturtium red beards. Sturdy stalks with 8 buds on wide 3-way branching. Garden effect is orange. Appreciated by all who saw it blooming in the Botanica Gardens in Wichita. **Net \$25.00**

DENVER ZEPHYR—TB, 32", M-L. Neglecta clone in pale veronica violet. Standards 639/2 on Wilson Color Chart. Falls 639/3. Orange beards tipped dark violet blue. Eight buds on wide 3-way branching. Breed for whites and yellows with blue beards. (Song of Norway X Fringed Lace). **Net \$25.00**

Previous Introductions

ROBIN CHRISTINE '89 TB. Pleated and ruffled methyl violet self, bright saturn red beards. **\$20.00**

CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE '89 SDB. Light tan over garnet brown falls. . . **\$7.50**

ORCHID LANE '88 TB, E & RE. Dark orchid (lilac) rebloomer of good quality. Proven rebloomer in Kansas, Virginia and California. Well liked in California. **\$17.50**

AMARILLO RUFFLES '88 TB, VE-M. Bright mimosa yellow self. Brilliant spot of color. **\$17.50**

1990 INTRODUCTIONS

LOVE MOTIF—Sdlg. 81-27Q. TB, 42" (107 cm), M. Light pink with light tangerine line extending from tip of reddish tangerine beards. Vanity X Entourage. **\$25.00**

CANNATELLA—Sdlg. 81-27-Y. TB, 39" (99 cm), M. Ruffled light pink self; red tangerine beards. Vanity X Entourage. HM (Florence, Italy). 1989 **\$25.00**

GOLDEN ICON—Sdlg. 81-28B. TB, 36" (91 cm), M. Ruffled brilliant yellow, darker yellow hafts, yellow beards. Daylight Splendor X Flamenco. HM and Best Branched Iris (Florence, Italy) 1989. **\$25.00**

Add \$3.50 for postage and handling

FRANKLIN E. CARR

27 Mary Street

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JOE PYE WEED'S GARDEN

Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks

45 Elm Street
Bedford, MA 01730

1990 INTRODUCTIONS:

DEVIL'S DREAM—Schafer/Sacks SIBERIAN, 33", L. Defying the color chart—we could not find any swatch to match the deep, rich wine red of Devil's Dream. This highly saturated color is complimented by lighter styles and a purple blaze surrounding a hidden signal. Excellent substance, a large flower, broad strong lines, and four buds made this a perfect choice for our first introduction. Percheron X Purple Prose. **30.00**

VICKI ANN—Warburton, SIBERIAN, 27", M. A very pretty light blue iris with a strong constitution. Typical of Bee Warburton's attention to form it has wide flaring falls *and* standards. The falls are decorated with lovely small white whisker-like signals surrounded by darker blue. (Atoll X Wing on Wing) X Dear Delight. **\$30.00**

OUTBURST—Sobek, SDB, 13", M. This striking 'outburst' of lavender, buff, and brown won Best Seedling at the 1989 Median Muster. The softly blended, domed standards contrast with vibrant brown veining on buff falls. The beard is orange tipped off-white. A fine garden plant. Soft Air X (Flapjack X Baby Toes). **\$15.00**

SNOW TREE—Sobek, SDB, 11" M. The pattern of this iris brings to mind winter maples silhouetted on the snowy New England landscape. A veining pattern of browns, greens, and greys appears charcoal at a distance on silvery white falls with matching white standards and beards. Vigorous with nice form. Sib to Outburst. **\$15.00**

Prices include postage—send for complete list and descriptions

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M.A.D. IRIS GARDEN

Bob and Mary Dunn

4818 Jella Way

North Highlands, CA 95660

Phone (916) 482-0562

DUNNGAREES (Bob Dunn '90) Very ruffled pale blue self with a hint of turquoise as it ages. A smooth yummy color. Wide, with heavy substance and showy form. Light beards, branched, about 34" with 7 buds. Bubbling Over X Blue Maxx. **\$35.00**

PATTERNS (Mary Dunn '90) Heavily marked plum rose plicata. Standards solid color, falls large white area, no center stripe on falls. Crisp and clean color. Matching beards, hints of lace. Great branching, substance and form. Almost always 3 open blooms on a branch—good show stalk. Eight buds, 36". Rancho Rose X Galore sib. **\$35.00**

PARIS BLUES (Mary Dunn '90) A showoff at first sight. Very ruffled milky blue self. So smooth that it reminds one of sterling silver. It has been a favorite since maiden bloom, looking better each year. Heavy substance, very ruffled, outstanding form and branching, many flowers, 36", 8-9 buds. Crystalyn sib X (Portrait of Larrie x Carriage Trade). **\$35.00**

VIBRATIONS (Mary Dunn '90) A very busy fancy plicata. Coppery rose standards, lighter at midrib, lightly ruffled. Burgundy red falls heavily veined, white area at tip of beards with burgundy freckles, copper beards. Wide overlapping falls, light ruffling, heavy substance, well branched. Also a good show stalk, different and colorful, 34" with 6-7 buds. Involving Graceline, Rippling Waters, Apropos, Gala Madrid and Rancho Rose. I have been working this one for a time!. **\$35.00**

No other list. Please order from this ad. Add \$3.00 for postage and handling. California residents add sales tax. Previous introductions also available—ask for price list. Shipping July through September 5.

D & J GARDENS 1990

7872 Howell Prairie Rd., N.E.

Silverton, OR 97381-9638

Ph. (503) 873-7603

As you can see from the above address, "WE'VE MOVED". We are now in the heart of iris country, halfway between Schreiner's and Cooley's Gardens.

Our introductions will be late this year. We have to see the bloom to verify that all are planted under proper name or number and did not get mixed in transit or planting.

We will have an ad in the July Bulletin. In the interim, if you desire a price list of previous introductions, send us a long S.A.S.E. We may also be able to help you with some you can't find elsewhere.

Meanwhile, we want to send our warmest regards to each and every one of you—and HAPPY IRISING!

DUANE & JOYCE MEEK

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN

Dorman Haymon & Sandy Duhon

1218 Duhon Road

Duson, Louisiana 70529

1990 LOUISIANA IRIS INTRODUCTIONS

1. **IT'S A BOY**—Beautiful baby blue, with darker surrounding a radiant, gold steple signal. The blossom is 6½" fluted with some ruffling, cream style arms shading to lavender and tipped blue. 27" sturdy stalk with 5 bud placements, 2 buds per placement with nice show branching. (Charjoy's Jan X Strange Romance). \$25.00
2. **BUBBLE GUM BALLERINA**—A six and one-half inch, ruffled and fluted, lavender pink with overlapping petals that are slightly recurved. A defused yellow signal ending in a white spray pattern on the falls. There is a pleasing curve to the robust stalk with all blossoms facing front for the show. ((Faenelia Hicks x Marie Caillet) X (Alston x Charjoy's Mike)). \$25.00
3. **KITTY D**—A very large violet flower with flared form almost that of a tall bearded. It has random white spots on standards and falls, large steple signals on falls and slight signals on standards. Wonderful show zig-zag stalks with branching from the ground up. 7½" blossom, 32" stalks which are very strong. (Valera X Charjoy's Jan). . . . \$30.00
4. **OLD SOUTH BALL**—Very pretty medium lavender with lots of ruffles and pleats, with a ¼" white halo on all parts of flower. Style arms are cream with extra long ruffled claws. 7½" blossoms which are flared to recurved. Stalks are 36" tall. ((Clara Goula x Charlie's Angel) X Easter Tide). \$30.00
5. **FESTIVAL'S ACADIAN**—Very round flat with overlapping petals. This red purple has steple signal, surrounded by radiating yellow dots toward edge, yellow halo on standards and falls, cream style arms veined red purple. (Fading Beauty X Charjoy's Mike). \$30.00
6. **EMPRESS JOSEPHINE**—Ruffled, velvety dark red violet veined and streaked black, bright gold yellow spearhead signal; dark red violet styles edged cream. (Full Eclipse X Ann Chowning). \$30.00
7. **SUN FLARE**—A very sun fast deep yellow gold, streaked green to the edge of blossom, flared and ruffled. When it is well grown, it can have as many as 7 bud placements but the usual number is 5. A good garden iris. ((Valera x Fading Beauty) X Charjoy's Mike). \$30.00

All of the 1990 Introductions have at least 4 bud placements with branching. They are all good growers with good garden habits.

1988 INTRODUCTIONS FROM DORMAN HAYMON

- GABRIEL'S LOVE** (Sdlg. 52-83-3) L.A. 35" (89 cm) Mid-season. Ruffled light lavender with brilliant gold dagger shaped signal, sometimes forked at tip. Full lavender styles. (Charlie's Angel X Buttermint Lace). . . . \$8.00
- WAKE-UP SUSIE!** (Sdlg. 15-83-1) 40" (102 cm) Mid-season. Standards light blue overlaid with lavender veining. Falls light blue overlaid with lavender which is more concentrated and veined around long yellow-gold steeple signal. A slight fragrance. A great garden iris with 4 bud placements with branching at every bud. Very good grower. (Acadian White X Ila Nunn). \$15.00
- VERMILLION TREASURE** (Sdlg. 44-83-1) 39" (99 cm) Mid-season. Red-violet self with darker veining. Falls have silver serated edges and large yellow sunburst signal fading to white. Good grower. (Delta Prince X Ann Chowning). \$5.00
- CAJUN WHIRL** (Sdlg. 4-83-1) 40" (102 cm) Mid-season. Ruffled white with gold and olive veins from base to edge of petals. Gold signal veined olive. Cream styles. (Alston X Charjoy's Mike). \$8.00
- GRACE DUHON** (Sdlg. 37-84-5) 40" (102 cm) Mid-season bloom. Ruffled and fluted very dark red-violet, veined black. Large brilliant yellow-gold signal outlined with black. This was the winner of the Seedling Class at the 1986 Lafayette Show. (Full Eclipse X Ann Chowning). \$20.00
- HURRICANE PARTY** (Sdlg. 5-83-2) 39" (99 cm) Mid-season. Lightly ruffled full red-violet. Slightly darker around large triangular yellow-gold signal and down center of falls. Cream styles shading to full dark red-violet. Slight fragrance. "Big is beautiful" with good zigzag stalk. Looks like a tetraploid! (Blue Duke X Ann Chowning). \$8.00
- MARIE DOLORES** (Sdlg. 15-83-7) 40" (102 cm) Early. Ruffled white, veined orange with orange signal. Cream styles that turn inward toward center to form a pom-pom effect. Great bloomer on a wonderful zigzag stalk. Pronounced sweet lily fragrance that one can smell across the yard. (Acadian White X Ila Nunn). \$10.00
- TERESA MARGARET** (Sdlg. 4-83-21) 39" (99 cm) Mid-season bloom. Light yellow, veined green all over. Greenish-cream styles. Slight fragrance. Good show in the garden with large flowers and many open at the same time. Very feminine with lots of curves and waves!. \$15.00
- MARIE'S CHOICE** (Sdlg. 19-84-2) 33" (84 cm) Mid-season. Light pink standards with darker pink veining and slight yellow signal. Cream styles, edged and tipped dark pink. Falls, full pink with some rose veining and large yellow signal. Slight fragrance. Beautiful zigzag stalk shows blooms to perfection. (Charjoy's Jan X Charlie's Tress). \$25.00

Please add \$3.00 per order for handling and postage cost. If you wish air shipping, add \$1.00 more. I ship via UPS, so please include your telephone number or directions to your home on your order. I ship from the last week of August (north) through October (south).

Fort Iris Gardens



Introductions for 1990

Cloud Ballet (Lyle Fort '90) T.B., 34", Mid. Season, 7 buds. E. C., H. C., Seedling No.: 85-72N. A unique color breakthrough; this flower blends from sky-blue edges to cloud-white areas around white beards. Nicely ruffled with a hint of lace showing off the clean blue boarder about the standards and falls. ----- \$30

Chocolate Marmalade (L. A. Fort '90) T.B., 32", Mid. Season, 9 buds. E. C., Seedling No.: 86-126H. This flower is aptly named. The standards are rich chocolate puce, lightly ruffled; while the falls are a flaring dark burnt-orange-chocolate boarder blending to orange, then yellow to a small creamy-white area about the bright orange beards. Shoulders are a rich caramel color. ----- \$25

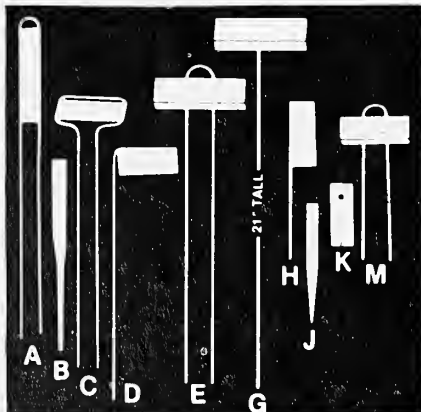
Wide Hips (Lyle Fort '90) T.B., 36", Mid. Season, 7 to 9 buds. E. C., Seedling No.: 82-3B. Large, ruffled, well-proportioned pale silver blue self. Falls overlap 3/8" at the shoulders, hence the name. Excellent parent producing large beautifully formed seedlings. ----- \$25

Twilight Caress (Fort '90) T.B., 34", Very Late, 7 to 9 buds, Seedling No.: 82-4K. The ruffled and domed standards are soft pink in color. The flaring, ruffled, slightly laced falls are a quiet symphony of hues blending pale yellow, pink, and apricot with smooth pink shoulders, bringing a warm sunset finale to the iris season. ----- \$25

Order from this advertisement, include \$3 for postage and handling. Postage and handling is included when you order two or more introductions. Catalog on request for \$1 (refundable with your order).

Fort Iris Gardens

2157 Hoxie St., Richland, Washington 99352



THE PERMANENT METAL LABEL

A — Hairpin Style Markers	30 For \$ 9.30
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C — Cap Style Markers	30 For \$ 9.70
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K — Tie-On Labels	100 For \$ 9.65
M — Miniature Markers	30 For \$ 7.45

PAW PAW EVERLAST LABEL CO.

Box 93-H

Paw Paw, Michigan 49079-0093

Quantity Prices Available

Postage Prepaid



D. STEVE VARNER—ILLINI IRIS

Breeder of Bearded and Siberian Irises, Hems and Peonies
Rt. 3, Box 5, Monticello, Illinois 61856
Phone (217) 762-3446

We welcome visitors!

NEW for 1990—All are fertile

- ILLINI RUBY**—SIB #V477M (Red mutant of purple V477: Tealwood X self) 28" M 2.5". Two branches, 3 or more buds. Bright red self except white signals. This naturally occurring mutation is an exciting parent and a rare source of red genes without interfering colors. **\$65.00**
- MEMPHIS MEMORY**—TET SIB #4074 (Dance Ballerina Dance X Illini Flirt) HC '89, 25" E-M 3" blooms, 3 branches, 6 buds. Very floriferous. Wide, very flaring lavender pink falls furl up slightly at edges. Near white stds. with light light lavender pink tint. Best blooming clump of Siberians seen at Memphis Convention. **\$60.00**
- SHY MISS**—SDB #9030 (Golly Molly X Bantam) M-L, Best Seedling Award at '89 Prairie Iris Society Iris Show (TB bloom time) excellent form. Deep light lavender blue stds. and wide edges on ruffled, flaring deep blue falls. White beards tipped light light lav. blue. Vigorous plant. **\$15.00**
- FLAMING HOPE**—TET HEM 33" diu dor MLa-La 6". Shining neon gold. **\$50.00**
- ILLINI NOEL**—TET HEM 34" diu dor M-MLa 5.5". Very deep bright red. Wide and ruffled. Light green throat. **\$100.00**

Some Former Siberian Introductions

- '83 DANCE BALLERINA DANCE**—TET Pink amoena EM 2 br. 5 buds. '89 Morgan-Wood Medal. **\$18.00**
- '85 DEMURE ILLINI**—Popular, rich grape red. Lg. white signal, red veins. . . **\$20.00**
- '88 ILLINI DAME**—TET Pink amoena M 3 br., 7 buds. My best performing TET in 1989. **\$45.00**
- '89 ILLINI GLORY**—V. wide, v. dark maroon red. Lustrous, ruffled falls. . . . **\$50.00**
- '89 ILLINI PURPLE PEPPER**—EM v. wide, ruffled, lilting, flare arched, dappled mid-purple falls. **\$50.00**
- '89 ILLINI STARDUST**—Our favorite bright lt. blue, wide and flaring, white signals. **\$55.00**
- '83 KING OF KINGS**—ML-L 2 br. 4 buds. Jaunty, lg. wide white self with faint green veins. HM '85, most votes for AM '88. Probably the best white SIB. **\$13.00**
- '88 PRECIOUS DOLL**—M-L-VL 14" unique! Lav/lilac 3 br. 6 buds. Round, nearly flat. **\$60.00**
- '88 PRECIOUS ILLINI**—EM-M. Beautiful dappled lt. blue, falls edged deeper. **\$50.00**
- '89 ROBIN**—TET M-L. Harmonious blending, red grape pink stds., red grape purple falls. **\$50.00**
- '89 ROYAL ILLINI**—TET M-L. Wide ruffled navy purple falls, dappled stds.. **\$50.00**

We invite you to share the beauty of our flowers. Normal iris peak bloom is May 15 to 25, with lilac and peony seasons overlapping that period. Hem peak is July 10 to 20. Easily reached from Interstates 57, 72 and 74.

TERMS: Cash, minimum mail order \$20.00. Prices NET. Add \$4.00 to each shipment. Foreign customers pay actual costs of air mail plus \$25 for phytosanitary inspection and certificate. Shipments made in order received, bearded iris starting July 5 and Siberians and hems Sept. 5, unless special dates are arranged. Order from this ad or send \$1.00 for our 1990 garden list containing descriptions of our other plants and listing others' Siberians and hems. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Small and Tall Irises from Evelyn and Bennett C. Jones

5635 S.W. Boundary Street
Portland, Oregon 97221



The home of **Cotton Blossom, Gingerbread Man, Rain Dance, Peachy Face, Sun Doll and Orange Tiger** among others, presents in 1990 . . .

FAVORITE ANGEL—SDB 11". Sdlg. M405-1: Star Dancer X M341-1: ((Pepita x Truce) x (Blueberry Muffins x (Pepita x Truce))). Truly an angel, a little one with large silver white beards for wings. Pure white standards are domed and touching at their tips. Pure white falls are elliptical, wide and semiflaring. Perhaps a coy angel sure to win you over. **\$10.00**

OREGOLD—SDB 12". Sdlg. M396-4: (Miss Oklahoma x (Blue Pools x Wink)) X (((Meadow Moss x Kentucky Bluegrass) x (Gingerbread Man x Meadow Moss)) x Dixie Pixie). Gold from Oregon in its purest form. Bright medium golden yellow standards arch to touch at their tips. Wide flaring falls are medium yellow shading to light yellow at their edges. Very acceptable form, deep violet beards, vigorous grower. **\$10.00**

CALIFORNIA STYLE—IB 22". Sdlg. 85-3-3: Color Bash X Orange Tiger. An eyecatcher with the color and flare attributed to the California scene. Domed standards are white infused light orange on the base of the midribs. Flaring falls are bright orange with white edges and a white center line. Tangerine beards. Slender stems carry one or two branches plus spur averaging five buds. **\$15.00**

Previous Introductions

Standard Dwarf:

- BLUE LINE** '87 Pure white, deep blue beards. HM '89. **\$2.50**
- ORANGE TIGER** '88 Bright orange, deep orange beards. Median Muster Cup '89. Lovely color. Short supply, order early. **\$5.00**
- PALE STAR** '85 Pale blue white, super form. HM '87. **\$2.50**
- PUMPKIN CENTER** '89 Warm white, pumpkin orange spot on falls. **\$5.00**
- SHY VIOLET** '89 Lilac blue infused amethyst. Deep violet beards. . . **\$7.50**
- SUN DOLL** '86 Bright sunny yellow, wonderful color and form. Long bloom season. Our favorite yellow. HM '88. **\$2.50**
- VIOLET LASS** '84 Medium violet, lovely color and form. **\$2.50**

Intermediate:

- SUNNY DAWN** '89 Brilliant sunny yellow, orange wash over falls, bright red beards. Most colorful. **\$10.00**

Tall Bearded:

- ORANGE HARVEST** '88 Rebloomer, emphasis on color and form. **\$15.00**
- PEACH BELLE** '89 Smooth peach pink, ruffled stds., falls lightly crimped. Tangerine beards; intense color. **\$22.50**
- PERSIAN LILAC** '89 Lilac blue with a slightly darker band around falls. Tangerine beards, superior form, 8-10 buds. **\$22.50**

Order from this ad or send stamp for our price list describing our introductions. No photos. Please include \$2.50 for packing and postage.

MEADOWBROOK GARDENS

Ruth and Francis Rogers
W269 N686 Meadowbrook Rd.
Waukesha, WI 53188

1990 Introductions

SWEET JESS (F. Rogers) TB, Sdlg. F232-C, 30". Lightly laced pink, darker pink at hafts and veining on falls; red beards. 75-K1A: (Pink Sleigh x Grand Waltz) X Joyce Terry. **\$30.00**

CHOIR TIME (F. Rogers) TB, Sdlg. FR-X-2, 35". Standards maroon, falls purple, veined darker under dark orange beards, maroon edge, sweet fragrance. Unknown parentage. HC 1988. **\$30.00**

1989 Introductions

CHIPPEWA BRAVE (F. Rogers) TB, Sdlg. F211-B. Copper standards, deep maroon falls with a distinctive copper rim. Gold Nutmeg X FR80-38B. HC 1988. **\$25.00**

PENNY BRIGHT (F. Rogers) TB, Sdlg. F-106A, 30". Copper self with purple flash below gold beards. 78-23-C X Spiced Honey. EC 1987. **\$20.00**

Please include \$3.00 for shipping

KARY IRIS GARDENS

Ray and Ardi Kary
6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(602) 949-0253

DUSTY SKIES (Peterson '89) TB, 34", M. Standards are grey, falls are blue with deep yellow shoulders. Beards are deep yellow tipped blue. Ruffled. Vigorous plant. **\$15.00**

NEW MELODY (Peterson '88) AB (¼). Purple arilbred with splashes of white on falls and standards. Falls are rounded and slightly curved under. This off-spring of Heart Stealer is a fast increaser and very showy clump. **\$12.50**

NAVAJO AUTUMN (Peterson '86) TB. Reddish gold standards and red falls with gold band around the edge. Showy plant for the garden. **\$7.50**

PINK BETTERMENT (Peterson '85) AB (½). A large medium pink from Heart Stealer with large black beards. Excellent increaser. .. **\$5.00**

BOLD SENTRY (Peterson '83) AB (½). It's BIG, BOLD and BEAUTIFUL. Rich sky blue standards and crimson falls edged tan. Small deeper crimson signals, black beards. Tall and colorful. **\$3.00**

*Write for free catalog. Generous Bonus Iris
Please include \$3.00 for shipping.*

KIRKLAND IRIS GARDEN—1990

Carol and George Lankow

725—20th Ave. West

Kirkland, WA 98033

(206) 828-4907

We are proud to offer new irises from Jean Witt, Kenneth Fisher and our seedling patch.

DOTTIE JOY (Witt) MTB, 21", M. Sdlg. 79-05-UW: 73-11-K: (Dottie x Joy) X Shady Sands. A decidedly pink looking plicata achieved by sanding orchid all over an ivory cream background. Even the styles are blended cream and orchid. Beards are a pretty yellow orange color. Size and proportion fit the class nicely, and there are five buds. Add a pronounced sweet fragrance and enjoy.

..... **\$15.00**

OZARK SKY (Fisher) MTB, 22", M. Sdlg. Q4: 80CC: (Slim Jim x Consummation) X 82-25-24AA: (76N x self, colchicine treated). Quite the bluest looking plicata we have seen in MTBs. The standards are heavily stitched lavender blue, and the clean white falls are neatly edged in the same color. Beards are orange, fading to cream. Size and proportion are impeccable. Six well-placed buds and purple-based foliage embellish the pleasing picture. **\$15.00**

VIBRANT ROSE(Witt) MTB, 25", M. Unknown parentage. This one brings a new and exciting color to the MDBs. Golden yellow buds open to reveal a rich rosy red and gold blend with a bright blue flash at the tip of the orange beards. There are yellow styles in the heart of the flower. Usually five buds, sometimes more. Not the ultimate in refinement and near the upper size limits, but the color and flatly flaring, lightly ruffled falls make for a bright personality. Sweetly scented, too. **\$15.00**

LADY DAY (Lankow) IB, 24", M. Sdlg. 4C39-3: That's Right X Actress. There is nothing shy about this theatrical IB. It is a gardenia smooth warm white with a few yellow lines on the hafts. Bushy white beards are tipped bright orange yellow. Petals are short and round with cupped standards and widely flaring falls. Two and three branches, five plus buds, fine proportion and good growth habits place Lady Day center stage. **\$15.00**

OVER EASY (Lankow) SDB, 11", M. Sdlg. OF6-25: Flirty Mary X Loveshine. A sweetly scented yellow amoena with strong color and sharp contrast for which we have been searching. Cupped standards are clean white with a slight green rib. The flaring falls are canary yellow edged a bit lighter. Matching yellow beards. Petals are broad, substance is good, and it grows and blooms like crazy. We think you will be delighted, too. Over Easy? Of course, the yolk is on the bottom. **\$10.00**

VIOLET WOOD (Lankow) SDB, 10", EM. Sdlg. OC4-4. Skydrops X Wright H4: (Blue Trinket x Cotton Blossom). We waited a long time for just the right seedling that charted violet to name for Carol's mother. A very smooth light blue violet with paler falls and self beards which are orange in the throat. The sweetly perfumed flowers have closed standards and round ruffled falls. Three and four buds per stalk on tidy blue green plants. A small and elegant iris in keeping with its namesake. **\$10.00**

*When ordering from this ad, please include \$3.00 for packing and postage
Please send \$1.00 for catalog*



MILLER'S MANOR GARDENS 1990 INTRODUCTIONS

Roger & Lynda Miller
Phone 219-597-7403

3167 E. U.S. 224
Ossian, IN 46777

CHAOS (L. Miller) SDB, 13", M-L. Standards are full spectrum violet with a small whitewash in the center, falls are edged spectrum violet, lightening to palest violet in the center. Color shading on many of the blossoms varies plus the maroon hafts add to Chaos' name. 3 buds. Sdlg. 4187C (Smidget X Baja). EC 1989. **\$12.50**

CHILD BRIDE (L. Miller) MDB, 5", M. Standards are cream with a full barium yellow midrib. The round falls are cream with a dark barium yellow halo spot set off by the light bluebird blue beards. Sdlg. 1684 (Zipper X Sapphire Jewel). **\$10.00**

CLASSY BABE (L. Miller) SDB, 14", M-L. This child of Sheer Class likes to make a grand entrance at mid season with round ruffled pale coral pink blossoms and slightly darker coral pink veins forming a spot on the falls. Her white beards are even tipped dark pink. 3 buds. Sdlg. 4087A (Sheer Class X Bright Vision). **\$12.50**

GYPSY BRIDE (L. Miller) TB, 30", M. She'll dazzle you with her light magenta rose standards and flaring, ruffled dark ruby red falls. But she will bewitch you with the apricot blush on her rose style arms and burnt tangerine beards. 8 buds. Sdlg. 4385D (Far Corners X Marmalade). **\$30.00**

JUST FOR FUN (L. Miller) TB, 31", E. A different and unusual color, yellow gold overlaid apricot with gold beards. Well rounded blossoms are ruffled with a bit of lace. Sdlg. 12784B (Mandolin X Queen in Calico) HC 1989. **\$30.00**

LACY TUTU (L. Miller) TB, 34", M. Lightly laced standards of deep apricot blushed magenta pink sit on top of magenta orchid falls edged apricot with tangerine beards. Laced apricot stylearms. Sdlg. 3285 (Mandolin X Queen in Calico). **\$30.00**

MAYA MONACO (A. Machulak) SDB, 11", M. This fine foliated SDB with domed standards and flaring falls is a grayed purple with a lighter rim around the falls topped by gold beards. 3 buds. Sdlg. 15-79-9 (Sunny Heart x unknown) X (Sunny Heart X Sib) HC 1988. **\$12.50**

MAYA-O-MAYA (A. Machulak) SDB, 13", M. Soft beige colored suede describes the garden affect you will get with this iris but up close you will see the domed standards are a grayed yellow-green, the flaring falls have a gold wash around the gold beards. 3 buds. Sdlg. 76-32-2 (Puppet X unknown). **\$12.50**

NEON PIXIE (L. Miller) SDB, 11", E-M. Like a neon sign in the sunlight you will be dazzled by the color. Coral pink with tangerine orange spots and dark coral beards. It's different, it's bright, and vigorous. 2 buds. Sdlg. 2986A (Fruit Salad X Bright Vision). **\$12.50**

RAINBOWS (L. Miller) MDB, 5½", M. This little beauty contains both ends of the rainbow. Domed standards are pale blue flushed chartreuse, falls are pale blue with large chartreuse spots and full bluebird blue beards. Tucked inside are light violet style arms. Sdlg. 785H (Betty Emmons X Hoogpum Purple). **\$10.00**

*Add \$3 shipping & handling when ordering from this Ad.
Send 2 stamps for descriptive catalog.*

COLORADO CREATIONS

Tall Bearded Introductions for 1990

ACOMA (Tom Magee) 30" E. Indian sky city. Wide upright ruffled sky cloud blue standards. Wide horizontal desert white ruffled falls edged with light violet plicata street map. Adobe beards. EC 1987 & 1988, HC 1988 (((Paul Cook 2754 X Claudia Rene) X Orchid Brocade) X Ann Johnson 70220B (After All X Moon River)) X Capricious . . . (see color ad). **\$35.00**

BUENOS AIRES REVISITED (John Durrance) 36" ML. Sdlg. D82-28. 6-7 buds. Anon X Taco Belle. The mouth watering melon orange standards atop reddish brown falls are reminiscent of an earlier Durrance introduction, Buenos Aires. In that vein we also revisit the bonus iris concept. Free with the purchase of any other Durrance 1990 introduction.

FRENCH PERFUME (Michael Moller) 32" ML. Sdlg. 80-A-1. Standards pure white; Falls light violet blue (97B); Nicely ruffled iris, named for a very pronounced sweet fragrance. Extremely floriferous, often having two bloomstalks from each rhizome. Well received on Region 20 garden tour in 1989. EC 1989 Dream Lover X Lilac Haze. **\$25.00**

HELEN BONFILS (Joseph Hoage) 34" ML. Sdlg. H78-31. A flamboyant Orange— attracting attention across the yard. Named for the well known daughter of the Co-founder of the Denver Post. Helen in her lifetime was a publisher, actress, Broadway producer, philanthropist and is perhaps best remembered as a patron of the theater. This iris is dedicated to her memory. Orange standards; Falls orange infused with yellow with orange beards. Well branched, 6-8 buds, standards slightly open permitting view of laced style arms and bright beards. Roman Candle X Orange Empire. **\$30.00**

HILO SURF (John Durrance) 34" ML. Sdlg. D83-19. A lovely clean white self with a hint of yellow in the throat of the beards. 7-9 buds. The ruffles are so abundant on this frothy beauty you'll swear you are surfside on Hilo. Prince of Peace X Ice Sculpture. **\$25.00**

MY SHADOW (Tom Magee) 33" E. Ted Lewis' side-kick. Upright ruffled dark purple standards. Ruffled flaring falls shaded blacker purple with halo of the standards' dark purple, four o'clock beards. HC 1989 Swazi Princess X Five Star Admiral. . . (see color ad). **\$25.00**

STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (John Durrance) 34" M. Sdlg. D86-32. 7 buds. Standards pink: falls white edged pink; beards pink with light blue tips. A circuitous route brought us to this name. Hamblen sdlg. 81-16B X Love Scene. **\$25.00**

SUMMER OF FORTY-TWO (Joe Hoage) 40" ML. Sdlg. H78-10. If you have looked for a tall pink, look no more. 40" tall, this medium pink self presents its 7-9 buds without crowding. The tangerine beards accent the flower. Fashionable Pink X Carved Angel. **\$30.00**

SUMMIT FLURRY (Carl Jorgensen) 30" ML. Sdlg. 84-01-2. A large flowered, heavily ruffled snow-white self of classic proportions. Closed standards and wide semi-flaring falls. The white beards have just a hint of light yellow deep in the throat from which emanates a clean, fresh scent of delicate lemon. 4 branches carry a succession of 6 blooms. (Invol. Dream Spinner, Merry Miss, Summit Valentine and Symphonette) EC 1987. **\$30.00**

SUMMIT QUEEN (Carl Jorgensen) 36" M-L-VL. Sdlg. 85-P-10A. A large flowered intensely ruffled and laced lively deep pure pink (RHS Mandarin Red 17/2). The wide fire red beards fairly glow. Closed standards and flaring falls. 4 branches majestically bear the 5 blossoms which open to give a long period of bloom. The flowers carry a pronounced fragrance. (Summit Sweetie X Flaming Pink) X Opal Brown 77-2A-29 EC 1987. **\$30.00**

. . . more COLORADO CREATIONS

Border Bearded Introductions for 1990

JUSTINE MARGARET (Carl Jorgensen) 26" ML. Sdlg. 84-P-2B. Named for our granddaughter, five perky ruffled and laced shell pink blooms are well spaced on the four-branched stalk. (RHS Shell pink 516/2) The slightly deeper French Rose beards emphasize the flaring falls. The blooms emit a delicate fragrance. Summit Sweetie X Opal Brown 77-2A-29. **\$20.00**

MOSTEST (John Durrance) 24" EM. Sdlg. D83-27. The garden hostess with the "mostest"—this one radiates charm. A very bright gold ruffled self with 6-8 buds. Frills X Golden Apple. **\$20.00**

RHINEMAIDENS (Tom Magee) 24" E. Chaste white with glimmerings of gold outside upright ruffled standards and river rippling gold halo on ruffled falls and gold treasure beneath the falls. Beards Das Rhinegold. Falls tend to seductively recurve. Whenever music clangs of Nibelheim the ruffle under the recurved fall illumines Alberich's RING. (Colorado Sunshine X White Lightning) X Mountain Sunbeams . . . (see color ad). **\$20.00**

RED ROOSTER (John Durrance) 26" EM. Sdlg. D80-16A. This ruffled and flaring deep red-brown self has been admired at several conventions. 6-7 buds. This cocky ultra smooth beauty has a lot to crow about. Hamblen sdlg. H74-88 (Pagan X Red Jade) X Maroon Bells. **\$20.00**

Order directly from this ad or request a copy of our free 1990 price list for a complete listing of available varieties.

We invite you to visit us during blooming time (late May and early June) to see these and other mile-high grown Colorado Creations. We're also pleased to be the site of the Region 20 Display Garden. This garden showcases 1988 and 1989 introductions from hybridizers outside of Colorado. This year you can view more than 240 varieties from 60 hybridizers.



Celebrating our 85th year!

P.O. Box 19

Boulder, Colorado 80306

MELROSE GARDENS

Ben R. Hager
Sid DuBose

309 Best Road South
Stockton, California 95205

TALL BEARDED IRISES

GRATUITY (Hager) Brightest orange; flame beards. **BONUS SELECTION**
(See BONUS INFORMATION at bottom of page 2 of this ad)

FASCINATOR (Hager) Purple brown stds. F. gold; tangerine beards.
..... \$35.00

DAVY JONES (Hager) Widest petals in deep, deep violet. \$35.00

LOVELORN (Hager) Orchid pink stds.; buff pink falls. \$35.00

MAGIC WISH (Hager) Pink pink; blue blue beards. \$20.00

NOVELTY TALL BEARDED IRISES

CLASSY CHASSY (Manley Osborne) Fluted blue white; bushy, wide blue
beards that usually turn up to points at the ends. \$35.00

TRIPLE WHAMMY (Hager) Gilt and yellow blend; bright purple beards
continue into long purple upturned horns. \$35.00

ARILBRED IRISES

GOLDEN SCULPTURE (Jonnye Rich) Gold leaf petals from pure aril X
White Lightning. Fertile. \$25.00

TINY PIRATE (Jonnye Rich) Miniature dwarf size; aril X pumila. Light
purple with big dark signals. \$20.00

ZERZURA (Hager) AB ½, near pure white; black signals. \$25.00

KALIFA'S ROBE (Hager) AB ½, Silken, fuchsia orchid bitone. ... \$25.00

BURRA SAHIB (Hager) AB ½, cream white and yellow; dark signals.
..... \$25.00

DWARF and MEDIAN IRISES

KID STUFF (Hager) MDB. Full medium yellow, 7". \$15.00

The following three irises we are classifying as Miniature Flowered
Standard Dwarf Bearded. A very "cute" difference.

SOFT WARE (Hager) 11". Flowers 3" x 1¾". Pinky cream; tang beards. \$15.00

INPUT (Hager) 12". Flowers 2¾" x 1¼". Yellow/brown plicata. \$15.00

MICRO CHIP (Hager) 12". Flowers 2½" x 1¾". Purple plicata. \$15.00

All three of above on one order. \$35.00

WUNDERKIND (Hager) SDB 13". Yellow gold/deep maroon red. \$15.00

BRIGHTEN UP (Hager) IB 20". Brightest orange; burning beards. \$20.00

SPURIA IRISES

MARITIMA GEM (Hager) 19". Smaller plant/flowers. Cobalt violet. \$25.00

FIXED STAR (Hager) Big, nearest to all white tailored flowers. ... \$25.00

LOUISIANA IRIS

CAJUN COOKERY (Hager) Spicy hot; deep red; wide. \$25.00

BROCHURE WITH 36 COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS, parentages and full
descriptions with all the Melrose introductions of the past three years at
special prices—\$1.00 on request. Includes **DAYLILY INTRODUCTIONS**.

Gardens are open to AIS, DIS, AHS members during bloom season by
appointment, please. Phone (209) 465-8578, but come see us anytime!

MELROSE GARDENS

REBLOOMING IRISES

We are joining other current prognosticators in predicting that fall blooming irises will be the FUTURE of the iris world around the world. We have had to come to that conclusion. The irises themselves are shouting at us that this is what they intend to become. Study the parentages of the following irises, and you will see what we (they) are talking about. All of these varieties bloom in the spring for the usual three weeks or so. Then they begin (here) to bloom again as early as late August or early September and continue (on established clumps, perhaps, but for us on the first year transplants) for a period of two or more months! This annually repeated early bloom period (here) gives us great expectations that they will rebloom in many areas and will certainly be potent parents for rebloom anywhere.

AUTUMN CLOUDS (Hager) Tall, branched stems, wide, full blossoms, blue white. Spring and early September and October. (White Elephant x Avalon Bay) X Welcome Aboard. \$35.00

AUTUMN CIRCUS (Hager) Blue violet plicata. Standards stitched, falls striped. (Space Odyssey x Socialite) X Earl of Essex. Spring and September through October. \$35.00

BLUE ANEW (Hager) Wide petaled, ruffled, mid-blue. Wonderful branching. Sister to Autumn Clouds. Spring and August to frost. \$35.00

BONUS MAMA (Hager) Wide petaled and fluted white. Short stems, but proving a wonderful parent. (Ice Sculpture x Geometrics) X I Do. Early September to frost. BONUS IRIS see below—NO SALES

CHEROKEE TEARS (Hager) Rich burnt sienna brown, small orchid blue areas at tips of beards. Sister to Verismo. Spring and late August to November. \$35.00

HEMSTITCHED (Hager) Lavender blue 'hemstitched' edges—all petals. Nice form. Sister to Autumn Circus. Spring and August to frost. \$35.00

RECURRING RUFFLES (Hager) A parade of blue violet ruffles. Spring and September to November. ((White Elephant blue sib x (sdlg. involving *I. balkana* x Shipshape)) x Freedom Road) X (Silver Flow x Ruffled Ballet). \$25.00

SUNNY SHOULDERS (Hager) Pearl white, prominent deep yellow shoulders. Spring and September to frost. ((Dream Affair x (Ice Sculpture x Liz)) x ((sdlg. x Glacier Gold) x Vernal Falls)) X Gold Burst. \$35.00

AND MORE FOR NEXT YEAR!

NOTE: MOTHER EARTH and MANY HAPPY RETURNS crossed with BONUS MAMA gave 100% reblooming seedlings this year. Try it!

BONUS IRIS INFORMATION: There are two BONUS IRISES—GRATUITY and BONUS MAMA. Choose ONE as your extra on orders of \$35.00 or more, or BOTH on orders of \$75.00 or more. On orders of \$150.00 or more, you may also include INDUCEMENT, last year's bonus iris. If you got it in 1989, mention that and we will include another choice.

309 Best Road South

Stockton, CA 95205

WALTER A. MOORES

Route 5, Box 189-B

Starkville, MS 39759

1990 INTRODUCTIONS

TWICE BLOOMING ARILMEDIAN

(Co-Introduced with Hooker Nichols)

ARIL REVERIE—Arilbred Median (¼), 15-18". E and RE Spring. Standards are pale blue lightening at edge. Falls are pale chartreuse with blue line signal and fine cinnamon dotting around blue tipped chartreuse beard; deep chartreuse styles. Inherited its pronounced sweet fragrance from Baby Blessed. Repeats bloom on established clumps approximately one month after initial spring bloom. Baby Blessed X Rare Spice. **\$15.00**

REBLOOMING TALLS

OLYMPIC RINGS—TB, 32" EM & RE (Nov., Dec.). From Soft Halo comes this improved reblooming halo type. White with faint yellow halo on standards with more pronounced golden yellow halo on falls. Golden yellow beards. Well branched with compact flowers that are recommended for rebloom in long growing seasons only. (Grand Baroque x Gold and Ermine) X Soft Halo. **\$30.00**

LAKE REPRISE—TB, 34", EM & RE (July-Dec.) Medium blue lavender with white beard tipped yellow in throat. This rather tailored flower is in bloom off and on during the growing season. It is offered as a companion plant to either of the above. Summer Holidays X Hawaiian Surf.

Send stamp for price list.

Add \$3.00 for postage or UPS.

MINIATURE TALLS FROM OHIO GARDENS

Featuring Miniature Tall Bearded Iris introductions for 1990 of **Mary Louise Dunderman** and **W. Terry Varner**.

CAROL'S DREAM (Dunderman '89). Sdlg. #HH213. MTB. 23" (58cm). A nice ruffled pale blue which is lighter in the center of the flower. Full flower with horizontal falls. Slender stalks with eight or more buds. **\$15.00**

ASTRA GIRL (Varner '89). Sdlg. P-325. MTB. 19" (48cm). A dainty, bright white setoff with a yellow beard. Slender stems with nine buds. Slight fragrance. From our *I. astrachancia* lines. Good breeder. **\$15.00**

*Add \$2.00 postage and handling
MTB Speciality Catalog—\$1.00
Catalog filled with helpful hints*

OHIO GARDENS

102 Laramie Road

Marietta, OH 45750



Presenting the 1990 Introductions of Monty Byers. Besides the ten below we're also introducing **BLATANT, CANTINA, CAROLINE GIBBS, DARTS, FIRE WITHIN, HAPPY NEW YEAR, MARQUEE, MIDNIGHT CALLER, NORTHERN FLAME, SCORPIO, SEA WORLD, SYLVAN, TRIFFID, WELDON GIBBS, WINTERLAND** and **ZURICH**.

For detailed descriptions of these, our previous introductions and all the other things we're listing this year, send for our free catalog.

MOONSHINE GARDENS—P.O. Box 367—Potter Valley, CA 95469.

IMAGINE THAT—TB. (Actress x Sky Hooks) X Condottiere. A red bearded neglecta with big uplifting flounces. Large, wide, heavily ruffled flowers on show stalks. EC '85 & '87. HC '89. **\$35.00**

LET'S PRETEND—TB. Imagine That sib. Light, clear, sky blue including huge, frilly flounces; white/yellow/tangerine b. Very similar to **IMAGINE THAT** in every way but color. **\$35.00**

EGGNOG—TB. Grace Thomas X Designer Gown. Golden butterscotch. A very nice, very ruffled rebloomer. **\$35.00**

HAND PAINTED—TB. Well Endowed X Violet Miracle. A deep, blended "red" (beetroot/ruby/wine) with a spray of white around big, bushy, electric violet-blue b. Wild coloring and strong, early rebloom. **\$35.00**

ISTANBUL—TB. Broadway X Earl of Essex. Clear tuscan yellow S.; red-purple stripes and stitching over white F. with an underlay of yellow at hafts. Good and a good October rebloomer. EC '89. **\$35.00**

SAXON—IB. Soap Opera X Brother Carl. Creamy light yellow S. and narrow borders around white F. Excellent all the way and excellent rebloom. So clean and bright!. **\$35.00**

ST. PETERSBURG—TB. Leda's Lover X (Sky Hooks x Condottiere). Silvery white with light blue b. tipped yellow. Super, big, ruffled flowers on tall show stalks—and a very willing rebloomer. **\$35.00**

HI—IB. Howdy Do X Baby Blessed. White with yellow at hafts; bright blue b. and blue horns. An abbreviated **HOWDY DO**—but with blue beards! Winter rebloom in mild enough climates. **\$15.00**

PALM SPRINGS—IB. Baby Blessed X Azure Gem. Blended pale, silvery violet-blue, greenish at sides of medium violet-blue b. An IB! from this cross—that takes after mother for strength and reblooming talent and father for quality!. **\$15.00**

BABY BOOM—SDB. Baby Tears X Baby Blessed. Pale yellow S. with creamy white edges; medium yellow F. Incredible vigor and incredible reblooming ability! A carpet of color, for months, every fall here. **\$10.00**

PALMER'S IRIS GARDENS

Route 1, Box 152

Geary, OK 73040

1990 Introductions

- SENSATIONAL**—SDB, 12", L. S. palest lemon yellow, near white in center. F. same, darker at tips, white in center, yellow shoulders. Wide round falls, ultra wide hafts, heavy substance, horizontally flaring, sweet fragrance. Light yellow orange beards tipped cream. 8236: (Velvet Pride x (white Daisy sib x unknown)) X 8225: (Crescent Moon x unknown). **\$10.00**
- SPANISH EMPIRE**—SDB, 13", L. S. very pale lemon yellow. F. white infused palest yellow, yellow haft veins and shoulders. Wide, round, very ruffled, flaring, heavy substance, yellow beards tipped pale blue. Sib to Sensational. **\$10.00**
- FLAMING RHYTHM**—SDB, 12", E. S. light blue violet. F. same with darker halo, flaring, heavy substance, wide elliptical and; red orange beards. Good substance. 8548: (Delicate Pink x ((Dove Wings x 7259) x Dove Wings)) X 8134: (Show Baby x ((Lenna M x Prophecy) x Dove Wings)). **\$12.50**
- GYPSY PASSION**—SDB, 12", M. Pale pink lightly infused pale yellow. F. pink overlaid with palest lavender for light pink/blue effect. Unknown parentage. **\$7.50**
- SPARKLING SKY**—SDB, 12", M. Very pale blue with light violet halo and pale red beards tipped white. 8523: ((7607 x ((Baria x Carpathia) x Dove Wings)) x (Daisy x 7525)) X 8549: ((Miss Oklahoma x 7607) x (Show Baby x 7666)). **\$7.50**
- THUNDERING WATERS**—SDB, 10", M. Medium blue violet with darker halo and red violet haft veining. Red beards tipped pale blue. Smaller flowers with narrower falls, but darkest color of the red bearded blues. ((Miss Oklahoma x 7607) x (Show Baby x 7666)) X (Show Baby x ((Lenna M x Prophecy) x Dove Wings)). **\$7.50**
- MYSTIC SMILE**—SDB, 13" L. Bone white self with pale red infusion on falls, edged white. Wide, round, ruffled. ((Wilma V x unknown) x Little Titan) X Michael Paul. **\$7.50**
- LITTLE EDENITE**—SDB, 15", E. Dark reddish black self, slightly lighter hafts. Moderately wide elliptical falls, good substance, brown beards. Much like the old TB, Edenite. Demon X (Bloodspot x Cherry Garden). **\$7.50**
- MARTHELLA'S CHOICE**—IB, 17", E. Light lilac self veined violet on shoulders and hafts; red beards. Moderately wide, good substance, light ruffling, fertile. Unknown parentage. **\$12.50**
- VOLUPTUOUS**—IB, 22", E. White self with yellow veining on shoulders. Wide, round, ruffled falls with wide hafts and heavy substance. Flaring, compact form, slight sweet fragrance. Yellow beards. (White Lightning x unknown) X (Miss Oklahoma x (Dove Wings x 7259)). **\$12.50**
- PINK EMPRESS**—IB, 22", E. Ruffled medium pink self with light orange shoulders and white area at tip of beards veined pink. Pale red beards. Wide, round, horizontally flaring, sweet fragrance. Mlle. Modiste X (Miss Oklahoma x (Dove Wings x ((Wilma V x unknown) x Little Titan))). **\$12.50**

Postage and Handling \$2.50

PLEASURE IRIS GARDENS

425 East Luna

Chapparral, New Mexico 88021

Henry Danielson Introduction for 1990 by Mrs. Henry (Luella) Danielson

FINAL INNING—Sdlg. A-86-1H. AB (OGB +) 27" E. The coolness and fresh look about this flower with the onco form is one of Henry's gifts to use. The standards are a lovely shade of ruffled soft lavender, domed and touching, with strong midribs. The falls are ruffled deep cream with a touch of green. Slight tuck enhances the roundness of this ruffled flower. Style arms and crests are soft yellow with aqua striping. Signal is of dark purple line markings; dark brown beards. It is a good increaser and dependable bloomer. (Pleasure Ahead x Dee Mouse) X One More Kiss. **\$20.00**

Mrs. Henry (Luella) Danielson Introductions for 1990

JET STREAM—Sdlg. L-6D. AR (onco hybrid) 20" E. Standards are light yellow cream ground with sparse purple veining, producing a smoky appearance with a fine hairline purple edge; nicely domed. Falls are light green cream ground with medium brown fine dense veining. The light green cream ground shows more at the hafts and around the signal with much brown dotting at the brown signals and brown beards. The striking color of oxblood style arms and crests adds to the smoky color of this iris. Some have asked for it prior to introduction so please note the seedling number. Polished Brass X Ravid. **\$15.00**

HULA FLIRT—Sdlg. L-09. AR (onco hybrid) 9" E. Ruffled standards have white lavender ground densely veined purple. The white ground of the falls is almost solidly veined deep purple with only flecks of ground showing around signal area. Style arms and crests are darker than standards with fine purple veining. Dark brown black beards and small dark brown black signal. This is a nicely ruffled full onco flower with some tucking of the falls. Excuse Me X I. nigricans. **\$20.00**

Previous Introductions

ETERNAL WALTZ—(H. Danielson '89). TB 36" E-M & RE. Ruffled glistening white with smooth lavender cast. In cooler areas, the flower is a light lavender self. The vigorous, tall stalk has 4 branches and up to 11 buds. Room full of sweet fragrance. **\$25.00**

ARIL MESSENGER (H. Danielson '89). AR (regeliocyclis) 6". S. off white with rich brown veining, more prominent at midrib; F. soft yellow with sparse brown veining radiating from large brown signal. Style crests densely veined light brown. **\$15.00**

PEARL SEA (L. Danielson). AR (onco) 14". S. white, sparsely veined lilac. F. cream ground lightly veined and dotted dark brown, leaving a cream edge, maroon red signal with orange center line; rich brown beards. Prominent style crests dotted light brown. **\$15.00**

ARIL SLIDES

These are available to any iris club or group by giving a 30-day notice and paying shipping costs both ways.

Send \$1.00 for our catalog listing TB, BB, IB, Siberian, Aril and Aribred irises. When ordering from this ad, include \$3.00 for postage and handling charges. Shipping only from July to September.

Phone 505/824-4299

INTRODUCING

TRUST (Michel 1990) Sdlg. C 131-1. TB, 36", midseason. The pinkest iris in my garden (RHS 36A) since its first bloom in Iowa. Wide, somewhat recurved falls with the smallest possible white area below a flamingo pink (37A) beard. Some liken it to Ovation in color with a larger flower. Beverly Sills X Liebestraum. EC 1986. **Trust** is the acronym for Trieste United States Troops. \$25.00 plus \$2.00 for UPS. Extras of your choice from my up-to-date list, or write for price list and get a free rhizome of Trust with \$25.00 order.

LEONARD MICHEL 77 Westbury Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72714

1990 Introductions From the Garden of

CLARENCE PROTZMANN

400 East Van Norman Ave.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

ARTISTIC DREAMS—TB, 31". Sdlg. 83-16-1. EC Award. Pink amoena. S. white. F. pink, deeper pink beard, very ruffled. (P79-40, inv. pink sdls. X Coral Beauty. **\$30.00**

IMPRESSIONISTIC GAL—TB, 32". HC '89. Plicata. Ruffled and wavy warm white, delicately stitched lavender rose on edge. White beards tipped lavender rose. Good grower. Truly a feminine classic flower. Laced Cotton X Fuji's Mantle. **\$30.00**

JOHN E. VOIGHT—TB, 34". HC '87. Named in appreciation of the high standards maintained as Director of the Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee County, now retired and to the world of horticulture. Plicata. Cream tan blending to rose lilac, deeper at hafts, orange beards, beautifully ruffled, very good form. Anon X 82-108. **\$30.00**

VALSE BLUETTE—TB, 34". HC '86. Silver blue self with white underlay. Deep blue under dark blue beards. Ruffled, quality satin finish, substance, hearty grower. Celestial Snow X 71-4. **\$30.00**

MARTIAN REFLECTIONS—TB, 32" HC '88. Sdlg. 84-21-1. Red self, velvety texture, even toned, advancement in efforts to realize a true red iris. P81-15-1 X P82-8-6. **\$30.00**

RASPBERRY RASCAL—BB, 27". HC Award. Laced stds., ruffled falls. Deep raspberry self; orange beards. Multiplies readily, adds depth of color to the garden. (Raspberry Ripples X 69-2) X (64-44 x Lac du Flambeau). **\$20.00**

Add \$2.50 for shipping

GEORGE A. SHOOP

12560 S.W. Douglas

Portland, OR 97225

BLUSHING DUCHESS (G. Shoop '89) TB, 35", M. Deep pink self. Lightly ruffled standards and falls. Wide tangerine red beards. Nice flower and stalk with 6-7 buds. Sdlg. 82-33-1: 79-30 X Today's Fashion. **\$35.00**

LEMON TEASE (G. Shoop '89) IB, 18", E. Ruffled with broad flaring falls. Light lemon with deep yellow spot on falls. Branched, good grower. Sdlg. 86-53: Spring Dancer X Pink Caper. **\$15.00**

WEE LASSIE (R. Shoop '89) IB, 16", M. Broad lavender flaring falls with purple spot and light bronzy cream standards. Yellow orange beards. A ruffled finished plant with narrow leaves and slender 3-branched stem. Excellent growth habits. Sdlg. 85-54: (Broadway x Dancin') X Peccadillo. **\$15.00**

BRIGHT CHIC (G. Shoop '89) SDB, 9", M. Bright yellow, well formed flower with broad flaring falls. Red beards. Sib to Torchy. A real chic treat. Sdlg. 84-38: Sunny Honey X dwarf sdlg.. . . . **\$10.00**

Please add \$2.00 for postage and handling

RUTH STEPHENSON presents!

Her dark royal purple SDB self—a 1990 introduction:

COCKALORUM

Voted #1 SDB seedling—CT Test Garden 1988

offered by

PERENNIAL GARDENS

Christopher Irwin

258 St. Ronan Street

New Haven, CT 06511

\$12.00 postpaid

RIALTO GARDENS

John Weiler
1146 W. Rialto
Fresno, CA 93705



OUTSTANDINGLY DIFFERENT IRISES

Not Just Improvements On Old Themes

1990 INTRODUCTIONS

Tall Bearded

FIRE ON ICE (Weiler 90) TB 36" E-L & RE A wonderful ivory white flower with orange-red beards and heavy substance borne on stalks of 3-4 branches & 7-10 buds spring and fall. Starts early, then most bloom is midseason to late. Rebloom, some as early as September reported for CA, NE, WA. Seedling 82-188-4: From seedlings involving Orange Crush, Jan Elizabeth, Pompano Peach, Rippling Waters, Fresno Calypso and Fresno Fiesta. **\$30.00**

DAFFODIL CLOUD (Weiler 90) TB 34" E-L This fine yellow amoena of lightly ruffled flowers on strong, straight stalks with 3-4 branches and up to 11 buds can repeat a month after spring season on new plantings. Seedling 85-168-1: From seedlings involving Trudy, Peach Sundae, Minnesota Glitters, Rippling Waters and Marmalade Skies. . . **\$30.00**

HOT PINK (Weiler 90) TB 35" E-L This very floriferous plant has broad petals of hot pink with undertones of orange and big red beards on stalks of 3 branches, 7 buds. Sequential maturation makes the season very long. A great advancement for intensity of pinkness. Seedling 85-160-1: Golden Galaxy X (Sib to flaming Victory x sib to Fame). **\$30.00**

Reblooming Standard Dwarf Bearded

AURORALITA (Weiler 90) SDB 10" E-M & RE The first yellow ground plicata in SDB rebloomers of light yellow paling to near white in center of falls and light silver-lavender stippling mostly on standards. Reblooms September continuing several weeks until hard freezes. Fertile. Seedling 85-32-2: (Twink x Third Charm) X Muchacha. **\$10.00**

EXTRA CHARM (Weiler 90) SDB 11" E-L & RE A vigorous, blue-violet with darker violet spot pattern and blue-violet beards, this has broader flowers, earlier and more abundant fall bloom than Third Charm. Rebloom reported for CA, NE, WA. Fertile. Seedling 85-29-7: (Third Charm x Plum Plum) X (Watersmeet x Third Charm). **\$10.00**

FLOWER SHOWER (Weiler 90) SDB 11" E-L & RE A lightly ruffled red-violet with broader flowers, abundant and earlier fall bloom than former SDB rebloomers both fall and spring. A real shower of flowers. Vigorous, floriferous and fertile. Seedling 85-29-9: sib to Extra Charm. **\$12.00**

SPECIAL OFFER FOR JOINING REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

If you order and include a separate check to RIS, join 3 years, \$10, receive free Flower Shower; join 1 year, \$4, receive free Rainbow Sherbet.

Write for a free price list of Reblooming Bearded Irises

Include \$2.50 postage on orders

California residents add 6 1/4% tax



RIVERDALE IRIS GARDENS

Specializing in Minnesota Hardy
Dwarfs and Medians

For 1990, we are introducing one iris from Kenneth Fisher of unique distinction and lovely character, named for a woman of similar qualities who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

ZULA (Sdlg. 82-LI) MTB, 22". This lovely miniature tall is subtle and uniquely handsome. Tawny light brown standards rise above fluted white falls veined and edged in brown. This is a long lasting flower of excellent form on a well branched stem. A real winner, just like its namesake. Chickee X (Nambe x Quirk). **\$15.00**

Please include \$2.75 shipping

TRACY W. JENNINGS

P.O. Box 524

Rockford, MN 55373

(Send \$1.00 for catalog, deductible from first order)

"Schultz-Instant"

ULTRA PURE CONCENTRATED ALL PURPOSE

LIQUID PLANT FOOD

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 "7 drops per quart water
 Every time you water,
 Every thing you grow."



A LIMITED WARRANTY TO CONSUMER
 ★ Good Housekeeping
 PROMISES
 REPLACEMENT OR REFUND IF DEFECTIVE

"Schultz-Instant"

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Fertilizer

EASY DIRECTIONS
 "1/4 teasp. per gal. water
 Every time you water,
 Every thing you grow."



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 ★ Good Housekeeping
 PROMISES
 REPLACEMENT OR REFUND IF DEFECTIVE

Available at leading Garden Centers and Plant Departments
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 P.O. Box 173, Maryland Heights, MO 63040

*Seeing is
Believing*

THE BEAUTY OF IRIS

The Tall Bearded Iris is known as the Rainbow Flower because of its wide range of colors such as pink, blue, orange, yellow, purple, white, red, and black. The iris is certainly one of the most beautiful and colorful of cold hearty perennials!

SEND ONLY \$2.00 FOR IRIS CATALOG

(Deductible from your first order!)

In our 72-page, full color catalog we feature a color photo of each of the 330 varieties we offer! This year we feature 12 brand new introductions developed by some of the most famous hybridizers in the world. We offer some of the most elite hybrids on the market for the iris fancier as well as beautiful, inexpensive flowers designed with the novice in mind. Browse through the catalog, select your flowers and mail in your order. Catalog also features cultural instructions. Oh, have you heard about our 50% discount?

IRIS FESTIVAL : OPEN INVITATION

Roris Gardens will host an Iris Festival from April 14 thru May 6. Come and enjoy the friendly, homey atmosphere and bathe in the sight and fragrance of 15 acres of full bloom! Open to all. Free of Charge

Festival Dates : April 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29

May 4, 5, 6

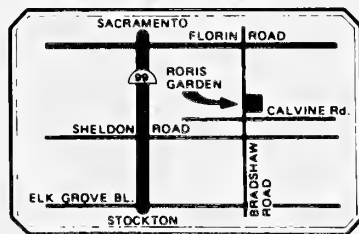
Take Hwy 50 to Bradshaw Exit in Sacramento, go south about 6 miles. You can't miss us because you'll see the flowers on your left. (Please call if you need further directions)



RORIS

RORIS GARDENS

- GARDEN : 8195 Bradshaw Rd.
- OFFICE : 7851 Carmencita Ave. Sacramento, CA. 95829
- PHONE : (916) 689-7460



HAROLD L. STAHLY

8343 Manchester Dr.

Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439

1990 Introductions

BARNUM'S WORLD (Simon '90) TB, 34", M. Very bright, intense gold self with gold beards. A good blocky flower, ruffled and fluted. Extremely showy. Sdlg. 84-3-1: Gold Galore X (Starring Role x Sun City). **\$25.00**

HAVERSHAM (Stahly '90) TB, 33", M. Pale yellow standards, cream falls yellow at hafts, a light stippling of violet to brown plicata markings around beards and extending half way down edges of falls; beards yellow. Nicely ruffled, wide form with three branches and eight buds. Sdlg. 86-3: (Frills x (High Life x Joy Ride)) X Shah's Court. **\$25.00**

ROSE COOPER (Simon '90) TB, 40", M. Medium lilac self, orange beards tipped white. Large, ruffled flowers on strong stalks, most attractive individually and as a clump. Sdlg. 51-66-50: Rondetta X Glory Bound. **\$25.00**

TEXAS STYLE (Simon '90) TB, 42", E. An early blooming bright yellow self with gold beards, this one is big and tall and does not sun burn. Ruffled, very attractive and attention getting. Sdlg. 11-12-83: Money X Starring Role. **\$25.00**

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1990 INTRODUCTIONS

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We are pleased to be able to offer the following introductions of Beverly Dopke of Phoenix and B. Charles Jenkins of Salinas, CA.

PHOENIX RED VELVET (Beverly Dopke) LA-36"-EM. Many of you admired this Louisiana as a seedling during the 1987 National Convention in Phoenix. The coloring is a blending of dark red-violet. The falls having a velvet texture and a gold line signal. There are 9 buds in 4 bud placements plus a terminal. (Ann Chowning X Delta Prince) HC 1987. **\$25.00**

CANDLE LACE (Charles Jenkins) SPU-49"-M. This clear yellow self is very laced on both standards and falls. Vigorous growth. Sdlg. #A20-11C. (Ila Crawford X Dawn Candle). **\$20.00**

COLOR FOCUS (Charles Jenkins) SPU-45"-EM. Remember the time you looked over a bed of solid bloom and could only see "just one". This is that one! The standards are light purple, the falls have an ivory ground with radiating purple lines coming from a large yellow signal. Edges of the falls are dark purple and very ruffled. Sdlg. #A20-OB (Ila Crawford X unknown). **\$20.00**

TINY LOU (Charles Jenkins) SPU-28"-E. This dainty blue flower has a small yellow signal. It has species appearance, is very ruffled, and grows with very good proportions. The growth is compact and well suited for small area planting. Sdlg. #A28-11A (Protege X Dawn Candle). **\$20.00**

GOLD DUSTED (C. Jenkins) PCN-14"-M. Royal purple background is completely speckled with gold dust. Its dazzling appearance makes this PCN unique. Sdlg. #B11-4D (San Gregorio sib X Californian). **\$7.00**

TIGER CUB (C. Jenkins) PCN-14"-ML. When you see this bloom, you will think of a tiger with all his stripes. A tan ground is overlaid by brown stripes. Good substance is a positive quality. Sdlg. #B30-11B (Santa Rita X San Gregorio sib). **\$7.00**

Please add \$3.00 postage and handling. Catalog on request for 25¢ stamp.

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SAMANTHA'S SONG (N. Burrows) TB 32" M. Lt. violet with purple stripe down center of F.; violet hafts; orange beards. Entourage X Vanity. **\$25.00**

JENNIFER'S WISH (N. Burrows) TB, 28", M. Dark rose purple stds. to lt. blue purple. F. dark rose purple; orange beards. Sweet fragrance. Vanity X Temple Gold. **\$25.00**

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1990 INTRODUCTIONS

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HAREM PEARLS (Barry 1990) TB, 28", Early-Midseason. Light gray-lavender-blue, shading to near white at the center of the flaring falls. Standards ruffled. Six to 8 buds on two branches and a terminal. Vigorous. Beverly Nichols X Vanity. **\$20.00**

ORIOLE OAK (Schulz 1990) TB, 38", Midseason. Standards sulfur yellow; Falls sulfur yellow with brown overlay. West Coast X Jean Boyd Fittz. **\$15.00**

STEVIE C. (Schulz 1990) TB, 36", Midseason. Apricot pink. Falls slightly ruffled with small white blaze surrounded by yellow. Beards tangerine. Mandolin X Sunburst Duet. **\$15.00**

KRISTINA MARIE (Schulz 1990) TB, 36", Early-Midseason. Light violet-blue with yellow hafts. Beards yellow. Turbulence X Mandolin. **\$15.00**

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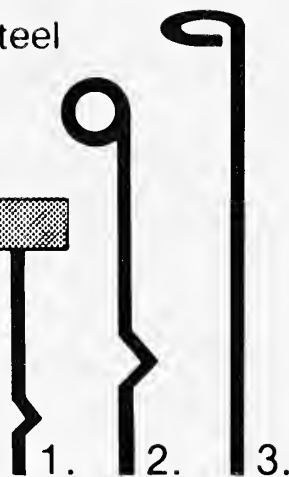
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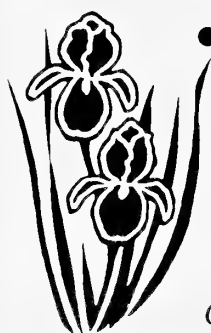
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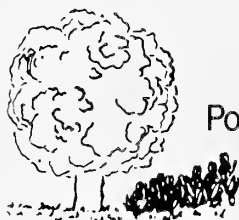
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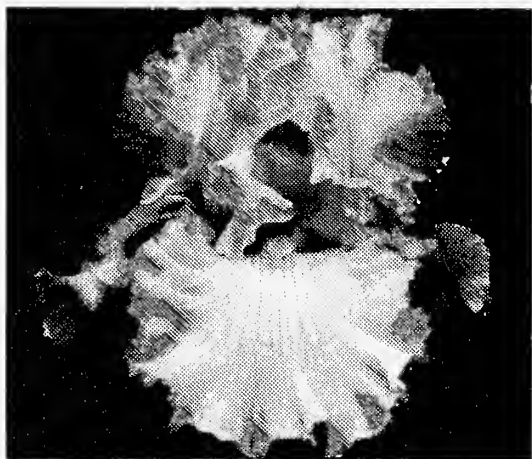
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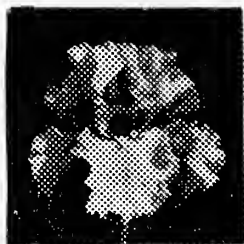
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Advertisers This Issue

Brown's Sunnyhill Gardens	72	Michel, Leonard	94
Burch Iris Gardens	73	Miller's Manor Garden	85
Cape Iris Garden	74, 75	Mission Bell Gardens	102
Carr, Franklin	76	Moores, Walter	90
Cooley's	58	Moonshine Gardens	91
Craig Iris Garden	71	Nicholls Garden	Cover 3
D & J Garden	77	Ohio Gardens	90
Deep South Iris Garden	78, 79	Pacific Coast Hybridizers	59
East Wind Garden	71	Palmer's Iris Garden	92
Eon Industries	72	Paw Paw Everlast Label	80
Fort Iris Garden	80	Perennial Gardens	95
Hahn's Rainbow Garden	54	Pleasure Gardens	93
Illini Iris Gardens	81	Protzmann, Clarence	94
Innerst, Sterling	55	Rialto Gardens	61, 96
Iris Country	53	Riverdale Iris Gardens	97
Iris Pond	56	Roris Gardens	98, Cover 4
Joe Pye Weed's Garden	76	Schreiners	Cover 2
Jones, Bennett	82	Schultz Company	97
Kansas Rainbow Garden	75	Shepard Iris Garden	100
Kary Iris Gardens	83	Shirley Burns Originals	99
Kirkland Iris Gardens	84	Shoop, George	95
Klehm Nursery	57	Stahly, Harold	99
Long's Garden	60, 86, 87	Stornoway Gardens	101
M.A.D. Garden	77	Sutton's Green Thumber	101
Meadowbrook Gardens	83	Tasco, Richard	103
Melrose Gardens	88, 89	Wild Mountain Thyme	102
		Varigay Gardens	62, 63

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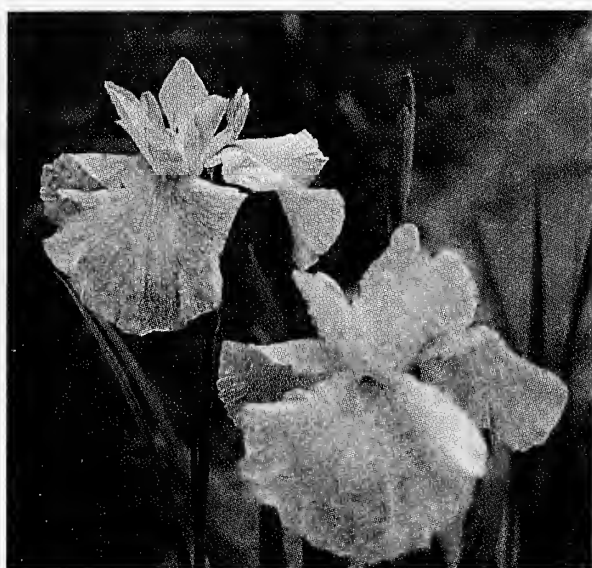
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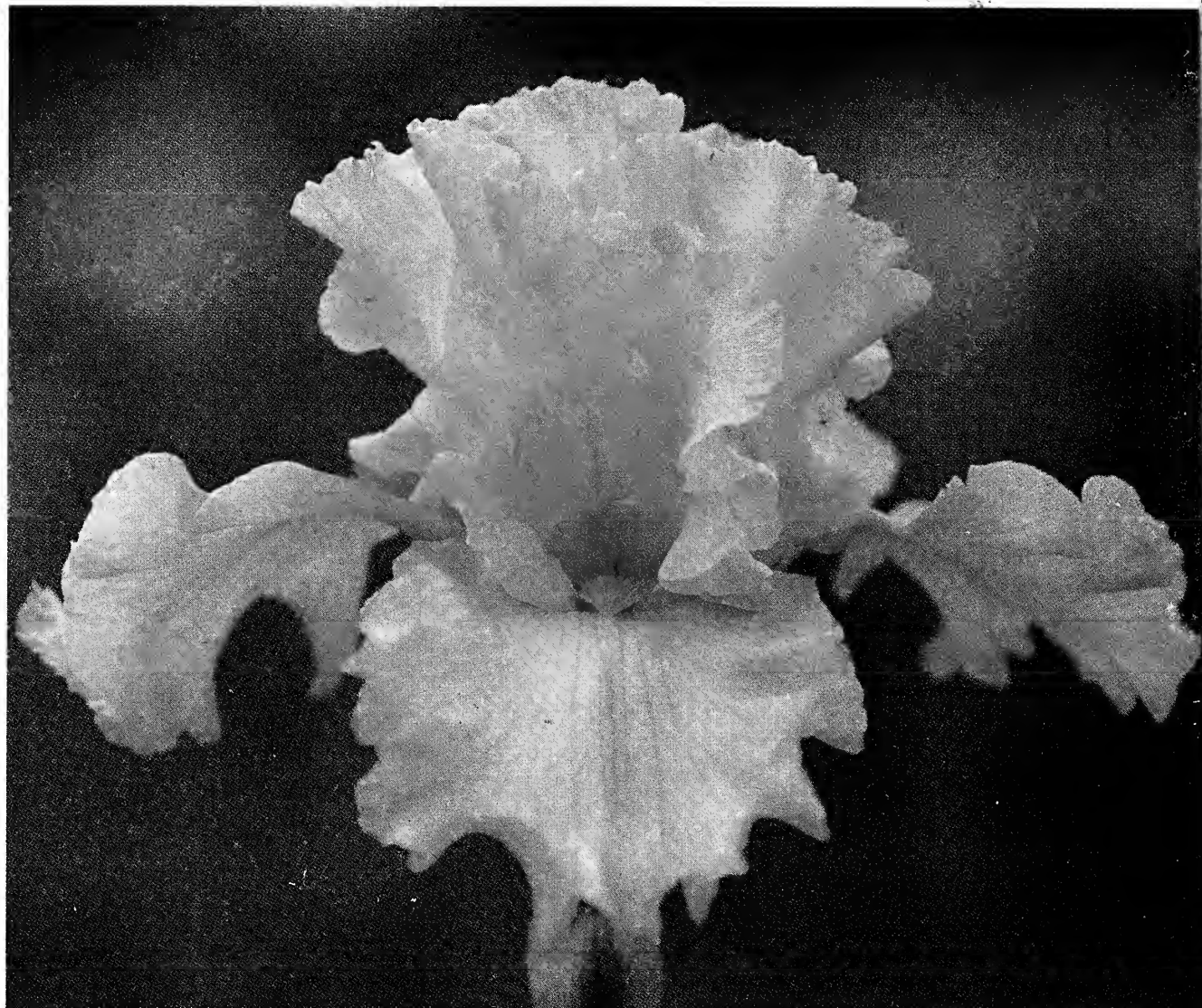
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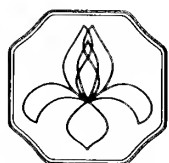
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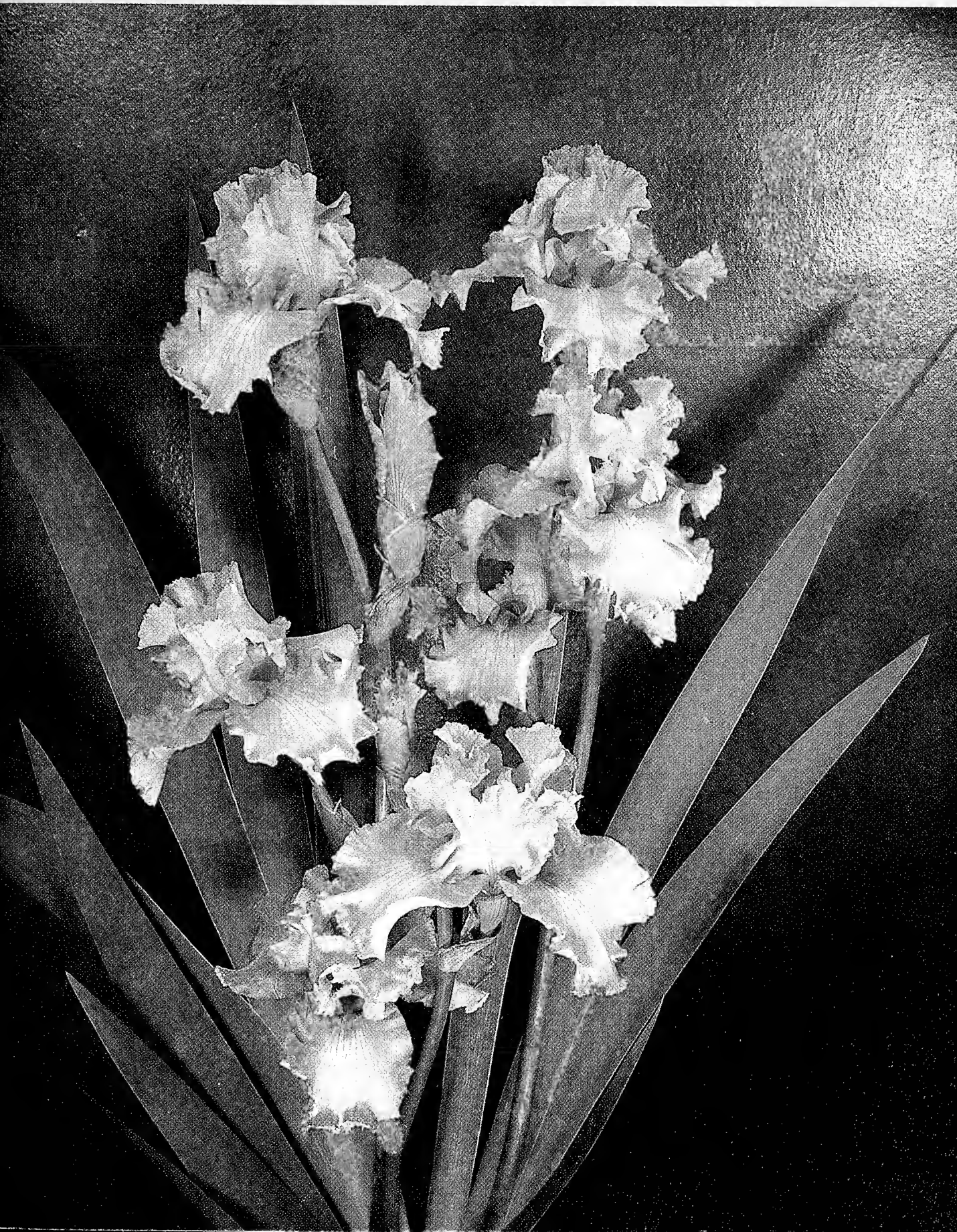
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AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**
ISSN 0747-4172



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Presidential Letter	5
Shoulders	Ben Hager 8
Looking Back	Rick Ernst 15
Try a Youth Member in a Leadership Role	Jerry Simmons 24
Approved Affiliates 1990	Dave Niswonger 28
SDBs, Past, Present, and Future	Cleo Palmer 35
The Iris Rainbow in 1989	Ken Mohr 36
Nebraska in 1989	Hooker Nichols 40
Growing Spurias in Southern Idaho	Robert L. Jensen 46
Let's Discuss Spurias	Floyd W. Wickenkamp 48
Getting Started With Spurias	Marilyn Holloway 51
Yes, But Why Black Ones?	Thom Ericson 53
Rebloom in Texas	Walter Moores 54
1989 Membership Contest Winners	Mary Kearney 55
Reblooming Irises in Region 21	James Ennenga 56
Kansas Bloom in Early Spring	James Fry 58
Do We Really Understand the Awards? .	Ronald Mullin 60
California Bloom in 1990	Carol Jarratt 68
Floral Design With Siberian Irises	Anna Mae Miller 71

Regular Features

President's Desk.....	4	Advertisers this Issue	87
AIS Sales Items	6	Editor's Comments.....	57
Iris Slides for Rent	7	AIS Membership Rates.....	74
Youth Views.....	24	Contribution Information.....	14
In Memoriam.....	25	How to Register and Introduce an Iris	75
Contributions to AISF	26	Commercial Directory	76

Photo Credits: Cooley's Gardens 18, 19, 20, 22, 23.

ON THE COVER: BEVERLY SILLS, the iris that has swept all the awards, is pictured on the cover. In this issue, Ben Hager gives credit to the many hybridizers who had a hand in producing this outstanding iris. Photo by Hager.



From the Desk of the President

Kenneth Waite

Summer is here! The seventh decade of AIS is off to a good start. The anticipated delights of the '90 spring bloom season have almost faded into fond memories. Remontant iris bloom is yet to be enjoyed. This will end another rainbow extravaganza.

The fun and fellowship of sales, auctions and picnics is at hand. It is a most busy time for all gardeners as we dig, divide and add new plant materials. This is an opportune time to acquaint others to the joys of irising by sharing surplus rhizomes. It may be the prod to foster another iris enthusiast. Have you or your club joined in the fun of the Membership Contest this year? It is not too late to participate and now is an advantageous time.

In the hurried world of today and our diverse responsibilities, we often pigeon-hole many things we should do, then forget deadlines. One item that fits this category is the Tall Bearded Symposium of 100 Favorite Irises. The 1991 ballot is enclosed with this issue of the bulletin. A vital concern during the eleven years as Awards Chairman was the lack of response by many. A minority of members, an average of about 22% responded yearly. This is the one opportunity for each member to promote his favorite cultivars. Whether you grow or know many or a few of the listed varieties, your vote is very meaningful. It helps others to learn what irises perform best in their locale as many regions report regional results in newsletters. The national results are published in the January AIS Bulletin. It is often used as a guide by the average gardeners when adding to the beauty of their gardens. It would be gratifying if each member would use this privilege of membership.

Some concern has been expressed about non-delivery of bulletins, etc. Two reasons for this are: (1) Failure to send renewal dues on time; (2) Failure to keep Membership Secretary informed of any address changes.

"Prairie in Bloom" was a great success. The efforts of Opal Wulf, her hard working, dedicated committees, and the hospitable garden hosts are to be commended for an outstanding convention. The visit to Boys Town was a "rare treat." The Sass Garden at SAC was a living experience in iris history. Midwest hospitality is the finest. How nice it was to welcome members from abroad!

The interest shown by many in attending the meeting of the Board of Directors has been most encouraging. Your input and comments, by letter or

in person, are always welcomed. Each Officer, Director, and Committee chairman gives of time and talent for the advancement of AIS and are to be commended for their competency. The new chairmen have adapted to new duties with much efficiency. I am grateful to each one.

To those gardeners growing reblooming irises, enjoy! May you all have a happy, restful summer and may the weather and growing elements be most favorable for irising.

Annual Presidential Letter

**The American Iris Society
July 1, 1990**

Each year the terms of office expire for one-third of the twelve directors of The American Iris Society, and four are elected to fill those positions. As provided in the AIS bylaws, a five-member Personnel Committee recommends to the AIS Board of Directors candidates for nomination as directors. The Personnel Committee consists of two directors chosen by the Board of Directors, two RVP's elected by the Board of Counsellors, and one Section member selected by the Section Advisory Board.

As approved during the spring 1990 meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, three incumbent directors eligible for additional terms were renominated, and in addition, Bennett Jones was nominated to complete the slate of four. Therefore, approved in accordance with the AIS bylaws, the nominees are:

For regular three-year terms expiring in 1993

Lillian Gristwood
Bennett Jones
Everette Lineberger
Jeane Stayer

The bylaws provide that nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before September 1, 1990. Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before October 1, 1990, to all AIS members and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before November 1, 1990. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot may be omitted.

Kenneth M. Waite, President

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1988 OKLAHOMA CITY CONVENTION

1989 MEMPHIS CONVENTION

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Slides Committee
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LOUISIANAS: Order from LaVera Burkett, 1002 Randall, Searcy, AR 72143. Check to LISA.

MEDIANS: Standard Dwarf, Intermediate, Miniature TB, and Border Bearded. Order from Terry Aitken, 608 N.W. 119th St., Vancouver, WA 98685. Check to MIS.

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SPECIES: Several sets available—one relates to judging aspects. Order from Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury, MA 01776. Check to SIGNA.

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REBLOOMING: Order from Earl E. Hall, 1495 Enterprise Road, West Alexandria, OH 45381.

HIPS: Joan Cooper, 212 West Country Rd. C, St. Paul, MN 55113.

Shoulders

Ben R. Hager

There is nothing that can bring so much excitement to living as the creative drive. The urge to manipulate some element or group of elements into a new and possibly more satisfactory form can be an occupation of a lifetime. It can be an obsession. Such an obsession has been in charge of my life for the past 40 years, and if the activities connected with that obsession were to be denied me, it would be the end of everything else.

On one confining winter day, as happens on so many other dreary winter days, I was going through the Check List, tracing parentages to find what went into a particular iris to make it the glorious manifestation that it is. It is not surprising that the iris I was looking up that day was BEVERLY SILLS. The very first iris names I found that were the relatives of this iris were famous pink irises themselves: PINK TAFFETA (Nate Rudolph), ONE DESIRE (George Shoop), CHERUB CHOIR (Glenn Corlew)—all on the pollen parent's side. The iris that was the pod parent for this whole extended parentage, PINK PIROUETTE (William Newhard 1970), is an iris whose qualities were never fully recognized. Sometimes I wish that I had used it more; on the other hand, maybe I should be satisfied. It did produce its share of both BEVERLY SILLS and PINK BUBBLES.

The next group of breeders along the lines of the diagram can be honored as "The Great Pink Breeders." Three of them first brought the 'pink color' or the 'tangerine beards' to full expression from parents whose flowers showed no suggestion of these color patterns.

DR. P.A. LOOMIS of Colorado, presented the world of iris breeders with four widely used pink irises (used especially by DeForest and Muhlestein). His SEASHELL ((W. J. Fryer x Ricardi) X a plicata seedling) was possibly the very first true tangerine bearded PINK iris. It was not registered until 1940 but has recorded mentions that place its birthdate around the middle of the 1920's. "Type Dore" (not registered) was a SEASHELL seedling. MOROCCO ROSE (see complete parentage later in this article) was probably used more than any other single iris in the development of modern 'pink' lines, and SQ72 (later registered as PIKE'S PEAK PINK) was another SEASHELL seedling: Seashell X ? Purisima)*¹

ELIZABETH NESMITH in Massachussets, produced only one "T" bearded iris that was widely used with other tangerine bearded irises, MELITZA, but the petal color was a pastel ecru blend. It was introduced in 1940: ((Gold Stream x Cortez sib) X (Airy Dream x ?))*²

DAVE HALL Surely the greatest of the 'pink' developers and breeders: there are 16+ varieties and seedling numbers in the BEVERLY SILLS parentage. (Probably more of the seedling numbers could be attributed to him if we were certain). One of his first full pink colored varieties was OVERTURE: (((W. R. Dykes x (Moonlight x diploid ?) x ((Dolly Madison x (Lent A Williamson x ?))) x Morocco Rose) x (Dauntless x Rameses) X (W.R. Dykes x (Dolly Madison x Morocco Rose))). There are no "T" beards or pink color among its ancestors

that are visible. It was soon learned that the color pink and the "T" beards were recessives and could only find expression if both of the parents had two genes each for "T" bearded pink color. In other words, for OVERTURE to show up with the pink color each of the two parents had to have two genes for "T" bearded pink color. Who could tell? Who could even predict? The first blossom on OVERTURE must have been quite a shock.

ORVILLE FAY (9)*³ who added vigor and class to the pink line.

FRED DEFOREST (5) who introduced new colors and size to the pink family.

TELL MUHLESTEIN (6) who succeeded by bringing glamour to the pink generation.

Pushing still further back between the appearance of pink color and the actual wild species are a whole host of irises that formed the basis for the later pinks and the many breeders involved who hadn't even started to "think pink." H.P. SASS (10)*⁴ was one of the most prolific. His RAMESES appears 8 times in our parentage. GRACE STURTEVANT has 13 varieties added to the family tree. More came from across the Atlantic in France. FERDINAND CAYEUX upped our count by 8 more ancestor irises and M. LEMON with 5 varieties, all of them diploids, of course. His MMe. CHEREAU (1844) is one of 3 irises (SEASHELL had a plicata pollen parent, CHASSEUR, Vilmorin 1920, a suppressed plicata; many of its seedlings were full plicatas) in this history to be responsible for the plicata pattern that keeps popping up in 'pink' seedlings from time to time, also there are plicata genes, untraceable, that show up in the Hall pink line. (It is reported that Dave immediately got rid of any such traitors on the trash pile.)

The oldest 'named' iris in the background of BEVERLY SILLS seems to be SAMBUCINA (1759)*⁵ a wild hybrid named by *Linnaeus* while he was classifying the species iris. But since it was collected growing wild, who knows how long the clone had been around?

By the time I had gotten this far into the research, a light began to dawn. I began to really appreciate the marvelous work that the AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY had initiated and supported with these historically detailed and informative Check Lists, beginning in the early 1920's culminating in the 6 volumes now extant. The meticulous labor of the REGISTRARS*⁶ who brought it all together, organized and set it up for printing: a formidable task not often acclaimed as enthusiastically as it deserves. Celebrate also the breeders who had the foresight to carefully keep records of the crosses they made so that today we may have as clear a view of the development of our irises as we do. There are some blank areas (some in important places) for early-on there were breeders who used mixed pollen because they thought they would get better takes with fewer crosses in the difficult combinations they were trying for. There were records lost, and there were "Sunday Breeders" who were just playing around, not anticipating that the bit of pollen they put on such-and-such a stigma would prove to be an important parent iris.

It is truly amazing that we have as complete a history in these Check Lists as we do, thanks to the dedicated breeders and the sharing of their records. However, ALL of the information available did not reach the printed Check Lists. KEITH KEPPEL and PHIL EDINGER (our chief historians) have been

“digging” in the archives and, with direct correspondence with the breeders and their associates, have come up with many parentages and other statistics not before generally available. After I had my fun in checking out BEVERLY SILLS through the Check Lists, Keith took over the diagram and added many bits of information that I and the Check Lists did not know about. For instance, the full parentage of MOROCCO ROSE (Loomis) the iris most used in the backgrounds of the pink irises is: ((H22-Lent A. Williamson (Amas x Jagesiana?) x ?) X (F-70-W.J. Fryer (W.E. Fryer 1917) x RICARDI (A collected form of *Iris mesopotamica*: 48 chromosome species) It would be interesting to know the parentage of W.J. FRYER. Phil tells us that it is thought to be out of GYPSY QUEEN (Salter before 1859) and that it is a diploid, which I could not discover elsewhere. (He still grows it!) Both of these irises have an obvious *Iris variegata* background. Add that to the “variegatas” in the SASS line and the argument that the genes for pink color originated with *Iris variegata* gains plausibility. After Keith’s additions had been absorbed I sent the whole thing off to Phil—and guess what: he added more parentages, namely those for President Pilkington, Reverie and Sunlight and a correction for the parentage of Magnifica: (*Isoline* X ? Amas). Who ended up writing this article anyway?

We can count 37 + iris in the parental diagram that are diploids, which, in combination or separately produced 27 tetraploid offspring from the crossing of the diploids with the tetraploids. Such tetraploids from such crosses are not common since it takes an unreduced egg in the diploid at cell division for it to happen and that is not the normal state of affairs in natural reproduction. The tetraploid irises that do result from this hapenstance turned out to be among the most significant instruments in the revolution of iris breeding that was currently in progress for they brought the wider variation of color genes of the diploid species to combine with the closely related five tetraploid species collected at that time which had colors that mostly included lavender. (You will find all 5 of these tetraploid species along with the 37 + diploids (including the 2 species: *Iris pallida* and *Iris variegata*) in the background beginnings of BEVERLY SILLS!

It took 159 varieties of irises plus 52 breeders to produce BEVERLY SILLS. Almost ALL of the prominent ‘pink’ breeders donated their share.*7 Picture in your mind the gymnastic trick of building a pyramid of people by some standing on the shoulders of others—imagine that with 52 participants! (And there I am near the top standing on my own shoulder.) But it took all of them to make one beautiful flower, or for that matter, any of the favorite irises that grow in your garden today. Makes you feel humble, doesn’t it?

*1I favor the question mark, however, Phil maintains he has a pale pink seedling out of the cross: Purissima X Seashell.

*2Parentage furnished by Keith Kewppel.

*3(1) Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of varieties this breeder has in the BEVERLY SILLS parentage.

*4Jake Sass, brother of H.P. Sass, introduced an original pink iris, FLORA ZENOR (1941), which was used widely but does not appear in this particular parental drama.

*5*Iris sambucina* was the original appellation applied by Linnaeus, but the specific status was denied when it was discovered that a natural hybrid was the consideration. The Check List gives the name in CAPITAL letters which is used for a varietal entry, so it must have been so considered at the time of publication.

*6REGISTRARS of the American Iris Society:

Ethel S. Peckham
Charles E.F. Gersdorff
Fern Robinson
Minnie Colquitt

J. Arthur Nelson

Kathleen Kay (Negus) Nelson

*7One recent and prominent breeder of pink irises, Joe Gatty, did not make this parentage outline. But his pink irises do appear in BEVERLY SILLS seedlings.

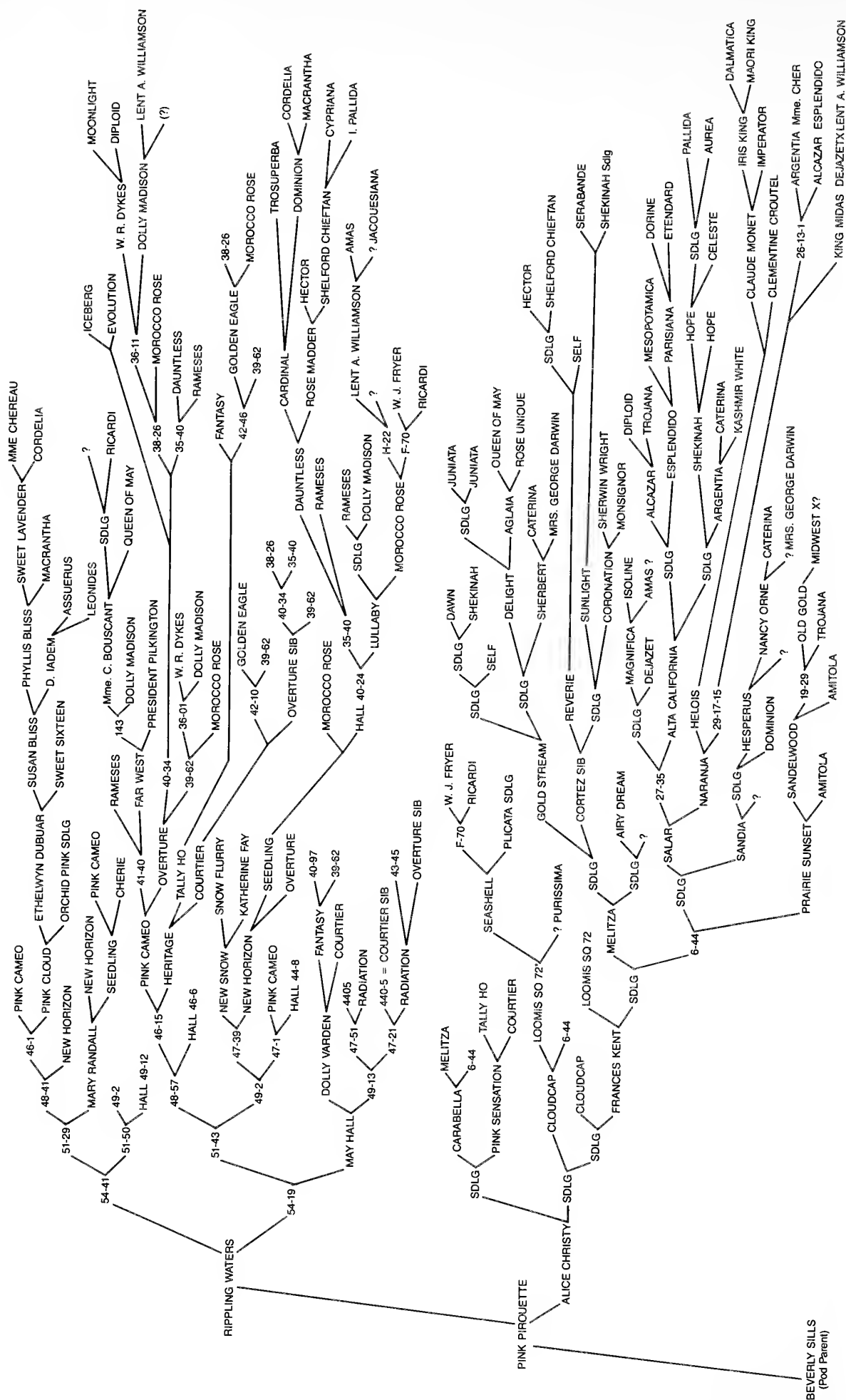
NOTE: #1The discussion of scientific realms dealing with genes, chromosomes, inheritance etc. are here simplified. Quirks can and do put in an appearance on occasion, but the general rules apply most of the time and are simpler than going into long discussions of minor effects.

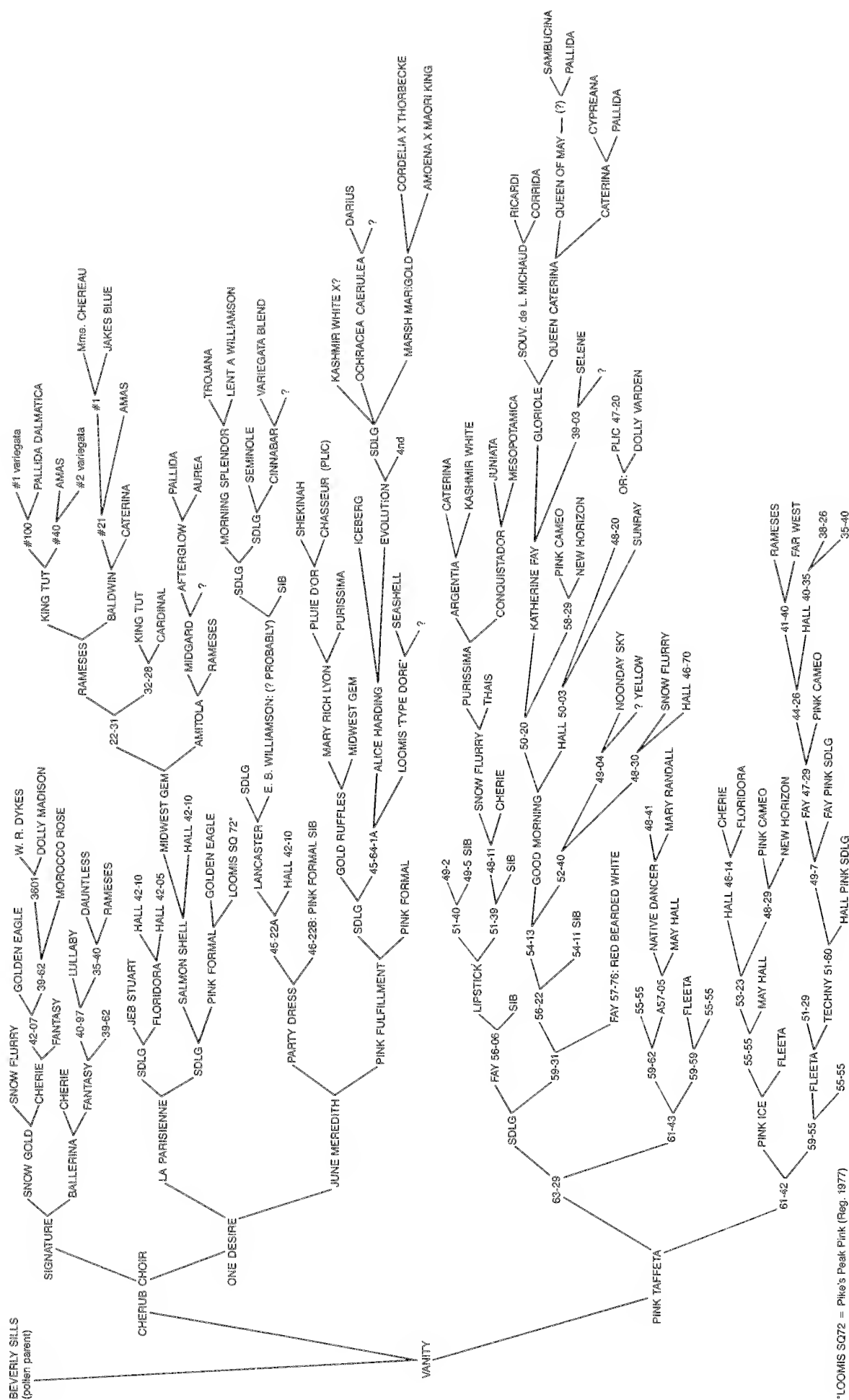
#2 There was also another iris by the introduced name of GOLDFISH (Wareham 1925) that had Tangerine Beards although the petal color gave no hint of pink. This iris was more or less contemporary with SEASHELL, but there is no record of its use in hybridizing. I once crossed it to BALLERINA and got 100% "T" pinks in the progeny, proving that it was probably the first "T" factor iris introduced.

IRIS BREEDERS IN THE PYRAMID OF THE BEVERLY SILLS PARENTAGE:

(1) = number of varieties from this breeder that appear in the over-all parentage.

Barr & Sons (1)	Loomis, Dr. P.A. (3)
Bliss, Arthur John (6)	Mead, Franklin B. (1)
Callis, Mrs. Ella E. (1)	Millet & Fils (2)
Cayeux, Ferninand (8)	Mitchell, Sydney B. (2)
Connell, Clarence Phillip (2)	Mohr, William (2)
Cook, Paul Howard (2)	Moore, Irving (1)
Corlew, Glenn (2)	Muhlestein, Tell (6)
DeForest, Fred (5)	Nesmith, Elizabeth (2)
Dykes, W.R. (3)	Newhard, William (1)
Edelman, Miss Violet F. (1)	Parker, R.P. (1)
Evans, Earl Ernest (1)	Rees, Clara (1)
Farr, Bertrand H. (4)	Reuthe, George (1)
Fryer, Willis E. (1)	Salter, John (2)
Gage, L. Merton (1)	Sass, H.P. (10)
Goos & Koenemann (2)	Shoop, George (2)
Hager, Ben R. (1)	Shull, J. Marion (1)
Hall, David (16)	Smith, L. (1)
Jacques (1)	Sturtevant, Grace (13)
Kerner, Anton Joseph (1)	Van Waveren & Son (1)
Kleinsorge, Dr. R.E. (1)	Vilmorin-Andreux Et cie (7)
Kohanki, Martin (1)	Washington, Thomas A. (1)
Lamarck, J.P.A.P.M. (1)	Weed, H.E. (1)
Lémon (5)	Williamson, E.B. (5)
Linnaeus, Carolus (2)	Yeld, George (1)





*LOOMIS SQ72 = Pike's Peak Pink (Reg. 1977)



Ben Hager, the iris Beverly Sills, and Beverly Sills.



CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY: Send to The American Iris Society, Jeane Stayer, Secretary, 7414 E. 60th St., Tulsa, OK 74145.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY FOUNDATION: Send to AIS Foundation, Richard T. Pettijohn, Treasurer, 2510 S. 148th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68144. Donations to the Foundation and AIS are tax deductible.

Note: please include name and address of next-of-kin pertaining to memorial gifts, so that a card of acknowledgment may be sent. Checks should be payable to the American Iris Society or the American Iris Society Foundation.

Looking Back

Rick Ernst (Oregon)

Cooley's Gardens began its life as a backyard hobby in 1923. Its founder, Rholin Cooley, found the iris to be "a strangely fascinating flower"—so fascinating that his hobby has turned into the world's largest iris acreage. At the peak of the sales year, Cooley's ships 150,000 plants (rhizomes) daily from its home base at 11553 Silverton Road NE, Silverton, Oregon.

Rholin and Pauline Cooley were married in 1920. He worked for the U.S. Post Office and Pauline was a school teacher. Their first iris plants came in 1923 as a gift from the family physician, Dr. R.E. Kleinsorge. The first blooms were seen the following year, and Cooley's interest grew—and so did the iris garden.

In just a few years the Cooleys had so many iris plants that they determined to see if some could be sold. And it was natural for Rholin Cooley to think of mail order sales since he worked at the Post Office and had the knowledge necessary to make the system work. And he knew that such a specialty item probably would not be readily stocked by retail outlets.

The Cooleys published their first catalog in 1928, and sales justified their faith. Returns were sufficient to continue the following year, and the next, and the next, right up to today. Pauline provided the management expertise for 22 years until Rholin retired from the Post Office.

The catalog and advertising made the business grow. From the outset the need to use color was underlined, and the catalog has been printed in color every year except 1943 when colored inks were unavailable due to World War II.

The Cooleys' economic fortunes were bright in the 1940's. Labor and mailing costs were inexpensive, yet iris prices were approximately half of what they are today. But both labor and mailing costs were to rise—mailing costs alone have risen 1,000 percent. Recessions in the 1950's resulted in net losses for the operations on several occasions, and recovery didn't come until late in the following decade. But the Cooleys persevered.

Today, the company management is conducted by Richard Ernst, vice president; Georgie Johnson, secretary-treasurer; and directors Judy Nunn, Miriam Ernst and Larry Ernst.

Family Business

Rholin Cooley died in 1971, and management of the operation was assumed by son-in-law Larry Ernst, who had worked for the Cooleys for almost 30 years.

Cooley's incorporated in 1975. Orders were hand-processed up until 1984, when a computer system was installed. In 1980, Richard (Rick) Ernst returned to Cooley's Gardens from service with the U.S. Navy and soon was manager. Rick had worked summers for Cooley's since 1966, when he was just 12. In 1985, his sister, Georgie Johnson, joined the business to handle payroll and accounting.

Also in 1985, Rick Ernst's other sister, Judy Nunn, came to work in the office and brother-in-law Larry Johnson became field supervisor. Rick's wife Kati joined the business in 1989.

Growth

Cooley's Gardens consisted of just 10 acres in 1930. But demand for irises has been almost continuously on the upswing, especially in recent years. Other farms were purchased almost every year in the 1980's, and together Cooley's Gardens and the Cooley family now own over 300 acres and lease an additional 500 acres.

A new office building was constructed in 1985. The next year a second production building was erected and the first phase of a new formal display garden was launched. In 1987 a loading dock and still another production unit were constructed. An equipment shed was added in 1988 and a fuel building in 1989. Phase 2 of the display garden was complete in 1989, along with a gazebo and a 2¼ acre parking lot to accommodate the thousands of visitors Cooley's receives annually. Phase 3 of the display garden is under construction and Phase 4 is slated for 1991.

The catalog itself has grown, too, from 12 pages to 72, with over 300 color pictures and 400 descriptions in the 1990 "Tribute to Peace" edition.

Production

The beginning of our growing season starts in early March, when the weather starts to warm and the ground begins to dry out. As soon as soil conditions permit, our fleet of tractors begin to remove soil that was hilled up over the plants in November. Following the uncovering, a crew of about 75 workers hand hoe between the clumps, mostly to remove soil that the tractors can't, but also to remove any weeds that may be growing.

Next, the paths between rows are rototilled with tractors, two rows at a time. This crumbles any large clods and weeds that remain after hoeing. Then we cultivate by tractors equipped with sweeps and spring-teeth. This leaves the paths reasonably smooth.

Our spray program starts at the end of March, with an application of Kocide 101, a copper-based fungicide. Kocide is a contact spray effective in colder weather for the control of leaf spot. Our spray is applied with a boom of rotary atomizers, "controlled droplet application." The atomizers, each spinning, create an umbrella of tiny droplets of uniform size. The droplets are too small to runoff and too large to drift. The result is a larger percentage of chemical actually adhering to the plant. This has allowed us to reduce the amount of chemicals we have had to use during each application. Later applications of Benlate (fungicide) and Cygon (insecticide) are sometimes flown on by air, if bloomstalks are too tall to clear tractor axles.

A second cultivation and hoeing follows when weather permits, and weed growth has progressed some. This usually occurs in mid-late April. At the same time, we side-dress fertilize with nitrogen to speed growth. This is *NOT* something we recommend to our customers, because too much nitrogen can cause bacterial soft rot.

Bloomstalks first appear around the fifth of May on JESSE'S SONG and SPACE BLAZER. A normal year (the last one being 1937) would see most all the bloomstalks up around May 15th, with peak bloom occurring May 25th. We gear our "Anniversary Days" around peak bloom, ten days of festivities beginning about May 20th and finishing on Memorial Day. In addition to our formal display garden, we maintain an indoor flower show with over 200 arrangements, an extensive equipment display, demonstrations, live radio broadcasts, wine tasting, the iris art of Clif Hadfield, and weekend live entertainment and square dances. Cooley's Anniversary Days is host to nearly 20,000 visitors each year.

As a rule, irrigation is necessary either before or after bloom, sometimes both. We use overhead sprinkler irrigation and put on about 2 inches in 6-hour sets.

Our digging and shipping season starts the last week of June or the first week in July, depending on weather and plant growth. All of our retail orders are hand-dug with shovels and divided in the fields, the mother rhizomes being left in the row. We then transport the plants from the fields to our processing area under building 2 at our office. The foliage is trimmed back to about 6", and the plants are inspected for any rotting. (Remember, we don't have borers in Oregon) The plants are then individually labeled and brought into our packing house where they are placed roots up in screen-bottomed trays, in alphabetical racks, and allowed to air for one day.

Clerks following down the order (packing list generated by our computer) select the plants from the bins and place them in the appropriate-sized carton. A packer recounts the plants to verify the number indicated on the packing list, and hand-pulls excelsior (shredded wood) to separate the layers as the box is packed. Next, the box is sealed and labeled, and placed on our computerized scales for UPS manifesting.

Our shipping continues through September, and a few orders are held until October. Generally, we dig and ship between 750 and 1500 orders per day.

August begins our wholesale shipping to the larger nurseries and mail-order firms that we supply. These orders are dug by machine, 20,000 plants per hour, 150,000 plants per day. Orders are palletized on our loading dock, and shipped by refrigerated truck to their destination. The division of rhizomes is still a "by-hand" process. Wholesale shipping continues through September.

September is our month to transplant. We rotate onto new ground every year and don't return for 3-4 years. Our modified Ellis planters, with trained operators, can plant as many as 90 plants per minute. One tractor pulls two planters, and we have two tractors operating, allowing us to plant up to 8 acres per day. Each 2-row tractor/planter set-up takes eight personnel to operate.

After six weeks, transplanting is complete, or it rains and we have to halt operations until the weather clears. As each field is transplanted, 30-90 acres, irrigation is begun, applying 1½-2" of water, depending on weather and soil conditions. Customer-mixed pre-plant fertilizer and lime are worked into the ground before planting, and then a side-dressing of phosphate and



257 Acres of irises



Spring uncovering and hoeing.



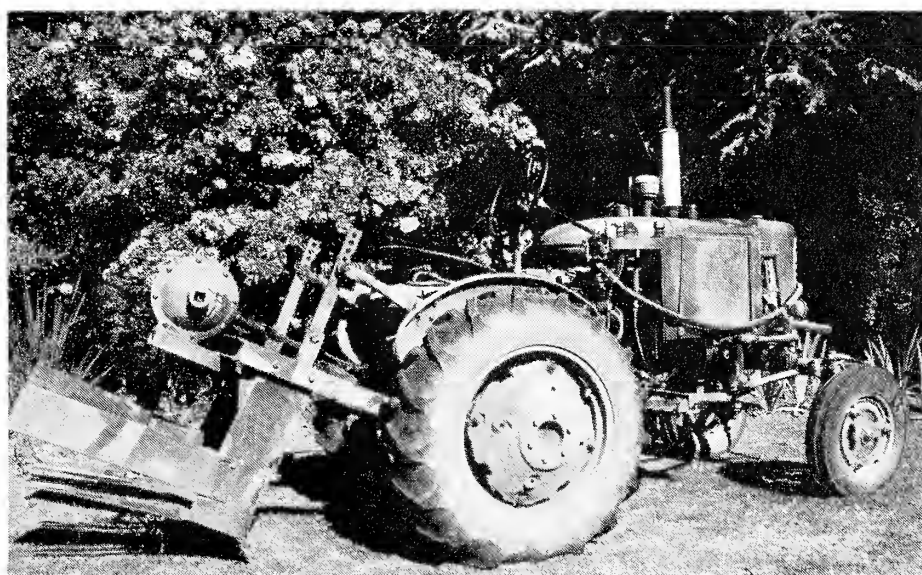
Controlled droplet application of fungicides.



Aerial spraying



Clean fields and healthy plants, ready for digging.



Digger machines, wholesale and transplanting.



Retail orders dug the "old way."



Labeling



Planting.

potash is applied to the rows following planting. All plants are treated with Benlate and Terrachlor prior to planting. In November, the fields are "covered" using disc-hillers that throw 4-6" of soil over the plants as winter protection. After covering, the fields are sprayed with Simazine and Devrinol at ½ the recommended strength to inhibit weed growth. The fields now remain untouched until the following March, when the entire cycle will be repeated.

Our winter months are spent reviewing photographs and seedling records, inventory analysis, and preparing our new catalog. From idea conception to completion, the catalog takes over two months. The cold, rainy period that precludes us from any field activities lends itself well to the maintenance and repair of 30 vehicles and tractors as well as pumps and other equipment. As a family, we take advantage of this slower time to vacation separately on an alternating basis. The Christmas holidays are a time when business is set aside and we spend time together with our children and grandchildren.

Hybridizing

Rholin Cooley chose to introduce for hybridizers all around the country. In the 1950's, while introducing for Dave Hall, Cooley's began their own hybridizing program under the direction of Larry Ernst. Because of the growing business and increasing workload, Cooley's abandoned their hybridizing efforts, but not before FAIRY FABLE and TAHITI SUNRISE won HM's. In 1975, Larry's son Rick picked up the hybridizing program with the Gaulter lines and now Cooley's blooms some 20,000 seedlings per year. The payoff from this program is just beginning, with AFTERNOON DELIGHT winning Rick's first Honorable Mention last year.

Starting with the Gaulter lines, we've attempted to bring in more variation in the standard colors, and each year creating a new "standard color" line. The introduction of "NIGHTS OF GLADNESS" for 1990 is the first of the new Cooley black lines.

Even with a direct, family source of seedlings, Cooley's shall always maintain a policy of providing new irises from other hybridizers. Those to come include introductions from Jim Gibson and Glenn Corlew.

The Business

Cooley's Gardens is more than just another nursery. It is our way of life. It is responsible for the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and our children's educations. It is our means of expression and the voicing of opinions. It is everything that we enjoy and some of what we hate. We suffer all the government controls, regulations, and audits that could possibly be conveyed, and yet we must bear the temperament of Mother Nature, and Lord knows at times She is downright cruel.

A casual walk with morning coffee shortly after dawn, though, through the first year seedlings at bloomtime puts it all into perspective. This is fun. This is hard work. This is countless nights of repairing, fixing, counting, loading, everything that didn't get done during the day—and has to be ready tomorrow. And it's the irises. Acres and acres of irises. With 257 acres of propagation fields, we're now the largest iris farm in the world, bar none. This is a

constant struggle, to grow, and yet maintain the personal attention that allows us to remain a family business. Our efforts thus far have not been in vain. Through the years Cooley's introductions have received three Dykes Medals, for GREAT LAKES, KILT LILT and MARY FRANCES. Besides iris awards, we've received the Mead Papers award for excellence in printing and numerous civic awards and honors. Our hometown of Silverton is very important to us, the Cooley's having come by wagon train to this area in 1845. Thanks to a nomination by the Silverton Chamber of Commerce, Cooley's was voted OREGON FAMILY BUSINESS of the YEAR for 1990.

Looking Ahead

So where does Cooley's go from here? There are many types of diversification, but the "seasonal" iris business does not leave many openings for new products. To branch out into new areas would require more management. Adding management is not easy in a family business. Sometimes it's not even thinkable. So for now, Cooley's will continue to do what we do best—irises. With all the sleepless nights and the government forms and the rainy days, that "strangely fascinating flower" is probably enough. The Cooley family is grateful to the AIS for this opportunity to share our business world and a part of our lives. We're looking forward to 1994 especially, when the Salem-Portland area will play host to the National Convention. Until then, happy iris-ing!



Indoor Flower Show
"Anniversary Days"



Winter Protection



Display Garden



A good day's mail (Miriam)

Youth Views

Catherine Long Gates

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH

The American Iris Society is currently trying to establish youth round robins. A round robin is where a group of youth from across the country write letters to each other. A robin would include about eight other AIS Youth Members and each time the robin came to you, you would add a new letter, take out your old one, and send the robin on to the next person on the list. You get to read eight other people's letters all in one sitting. In this way, you can get to know youth in other parts of the country, trade information and ideas, and make friends. Getting something in the mailbox every now and then is also a plus.

If you're interested in becoming involved in this program or if you'd like more information please send a note to: Jerry Simmons, 4049 Ross Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95118. Please include information about what interests you most about irises, what you would like to learn about, and tell a little about yourself.

Try a Youth Member in a Leadership Role You Might Be Surprised at the Results!

Jerry Simmons (California)

As an AIS youth member, I've had the good fortune to be in a large local iris society whose members don't usually consider age a factor in electing its officers. One and a half years ago, I was elected secretary of the club, and was reelected last fall.

In talking with other youth members throughout the United States, however, clubs electing youth members as officers are *not* common. This didn't surprise me too much, I suppose, but this needs to be changed. This change needs to start with you at your next iris society meeting.

Youth members can do wonders when they are elected as an officer or as a board member of an iris society. Youth members have enthusiasm, energy, free time, and they have many new ideas and can suggest different ways of doing things because they have a different perspective on life than those older than themselves. Additionally, getting elected as an officer often serves as a way to prevent youth members from straying away from your club. After all, if they are an officer, then they *have* to come to the meetings whether they like it or not, and once there, you can get them a little more interested in irises with each meeting that passes. By electing a youth member, your club is also

helping that person because he/she can use it on a resumé or on college applications.

One major advantage that youth members have is that they haven't been members of the club for years and years, so they don't accept anything as being a set policy. Youth members are doers and changers, and almost always have a suggestion on how things should be done.

When I got the call asking me if I would be willing to be secretary for my local club, I must admit that I was so flattered that I would even be considered that I couldn't possibly say no. Since then, I have really felt as though my opinion counts, and I've spoken up whenever I had an idea that I felt could help solve a problem. In my club, filling the officer positions is difficult to do because there are rarely any volunteers. If the situation exists in your club, then why not suggest a youth member next time your club is in one of those kinds of fixes?

If you don't feel comfortable electing a youth member as an officer, why not elect a youth member to a board of directors or similar group, or let him/her be in charge of a club event like a sale auction, or let one or more youth members be in charge of the club newsletter or getting publicity for a club event, etc. There's always a position in a club that a youth member could do just as well as an adult, you just have to look for it in some cases. Another option would be to invite your club's youth member(s) to do a program on what they're doing in their gardens. If the youth member says no, then move on, but if he/she says yes to doing an event or being an officer, be sure to offer periodic encouragement, and offer suggestions as to how he/she can do better in the future. There's always a position in a club that a youth member could fill, sometimes you just have to look for it.

Up to now I've just been talking about getting youth involved at a local level in their club. However, all of these same principles also apply at regional and national levels.

IN MEMORIAM **Eleanor Hill**

By Dorothy Howard

Following several years of declining health, Eleanor Hill of Tulsa, Oklahoma, died peacefully in her sleep in March of this year. She was 85 years old. Miss Hill had been active in the Daffodil, Hemerocallis, Orchid and Peony Societies as well as being a pioneer member of The American Iris Society. When the union of Arkansas and Oklahoma became Region 22, Miss Hill was its first RVP. During her lifetime Eleanor was the recipient of many local, state and national horticultural awards and honors. She had confided to a niece that a highlight of her lifetime was the dedication of the 1980 AIS convention in her honor. Two other honors will live on in our gardens, the hemerocallis "Eleanor Hill" and the spuria "Eleanor Hill."

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SDBs Past, Present, and Future

Cleo Palmer (Oklahoma)

Back in the late forties and early fifties when the standard dwarf bearded class was in its infancy, the form was not very good. But one could not realistically expect it to be when Pumila is basically very narrow hafted, overlong in the falls, and not very wide. Tall bearded irises of that day were also rather narrow in the hafts and not too wide either. So, it is not surprising that the early SDBs were narrow hafted and rather dog-tongued in form.

The best of the modern SDBs are quite a different story. Just as the native head hunters shrank skulls into miniatures of the originals, the best modern SDBs are shrunken miniatures of the best of modern tall as to form. Today's best SDBs have very wide round falls with very full hafts and near horizontal flare. They also have very heavy substance in most cases. Certainly, they are a far cry from what they were in the beginning.

Colors rival or exceed that of the tall bearded class for the most part, and much is yet to come as far as color goes in the SDBs. Whites with red beards, such as Dorothy Howard which has red, white and blue tipped beards, are just beginning to show up in the class. Likewise, blues with red beards, such as Flaming Rhythm, are just now coming on the market. Red amoenas have arrived, but they need much work yet to perfect the pattern. Blue amoenas, hopefully, are just around the corner. It is hoped that with their arrival there will come quite an explosion of new bicolor patterns such as occurred in the tall. Time will tell about that.

The pink SDBs have been difficult to improve colorwise, as well as in form and substance. The class is improving very slowly. It is not surprising since most go back to the original pinks from Earl Roberts' line. So, there is very limited diversity in the pink gene pool in the SDBs. It likely would be quite helpful to this color class if new TB X Pumila crosses were made with new pinks being the goal. Carpathia or Barium Gold would be the preferred Pumilas to use since they are known to have given pinks in the past. Pink IB X Pink SDB would be another route to bring in new pink TB genes, but it would require crossing the sterility barrier imposed by the IB parent. That's not an easy task by any means, but neither is it insurmountable.

Some new colors that are on the horizon are better oranges and darker oranges. Orange amoenas, pink amoenas, and hopefully, a black amoena or possibly bitone, brown amoenas—all appear to be possible in the near future. Pink by-products are likely to abound as red beards are put on many different self colors. With red beards like that of Orange Tiger many of these colors can be quite striking. Other beard colors such as brown, purple, and blue on certain self colors would be attractive. Yellows with red beards are already here in very limited quantity and color range. A much wider range in the depth of the yellow self with red beard is certainly near at hand, and these can be accented with pink spots or shoulders as well. Even chartreuse yellows with red beards have already appeared.

Coppery melon blends with red beards are a fact already, as are mauve pink standards and coppery melon falls with red beards. Very pale blue to blue violet standards with blue-green falls and red beards are likely in the very near future as are dark red, purple, and blacks with red beards. Many shades of brown with red beards are likely as well. Yellow standards and brownish orange falls with red beards are a fact, but currently they are rather dingy in color.

With the advent of Progenitor type blue amoena SDBs, one can get things with inhibited standards such as inhibited plicata standards and all others with blue in the standards. Maybe I should not say all blues as certain Pumila ancocynanin colors may not be inhibited by the Progenitor inhibitor. White selfs with blue veined spots and red beards are a fact already and solid blue falls are likely. The pink/blue pattern should be here soon. Gypsy Passion already has the pattern, but the lavender overlay is rather faint. There is no doubt but what many other new colors, combinations, and patterns will show up, but only time will tell exactly what they may be.

The Iris Rainbow in 1989

Ken Mohr (California)

It has probably been said before that our pursuit of the ideal iris is much like chasing rainbows. The ideal iris is always just ahead of us. By the time the goals of the past have been reached, we have our eyes fixed on new ones just ahead—out of our grasp. We always want just a little more clarity, uniformity or intensity of color; larger size; better form or substance, or more lace and ruffling on the flowers; more buds or branching or taller, stronger bloomstalks; more plant vigor, etc. etc. etc.

While some of the following irises are much closer to our new ideals in many aspects, none are close in all of them.

The color pink in the iris spectrum has always been very popular. Beverly Sills (Hager '79) not only radiates a beautiful intensity of coral pink color, but presents an overall abundance of beautifully ruffled and laced flowers on one of the most healthy, prolific plants to hit the iris stage—making this one a tough act to follow. Anna Belle Babson (Hager '85) is probably its best child with tall, well branched show stalks and color intensity reminiscent of its parent. Some believe this one should receive the same honor bestowed its parent and grandparent.

Of Joe Gatty's fine line of pinks, Femme Fatale (Gatty '88) impressed those attending the Region 15 Spring Trek by producing large, lacy, smooth textured pink blossoms on tall bloomstalks. Tender Frills (Hammer '90) is outstanding for its beautiful form inherited from Melissa Sue, with more of a full pink coloration and a long bloom season.

Peach Bisque (Maryott '87) has a nice color of peach, but the great form of the flower, with loads of ruffles and lace, makes this one a hit. Lovely Glow (Gatty '87) has just what its name implies, a lovely glow of pink in the standards of this pastel apricot beauty.

The quality of the orange iris has improved dramatically in the past few years. The brightness of Fame (Weiler '86) in shades of golden orange shines across the garden to win many admirers. Octoberfest (Maryott '87) displays beautiful ruffles and lace on a large red orange flower. Though introduced as a border iris, Esmeralda (Ghio '88) is consistently around thirty-four inches in height. It has one of the most ruffled flowers and is done in a striking shade of deep orange. Guadalajara (Ghio '89) shows much promise, being a nice smooth orange with high bud count on tall, well branched bloomstalks. Orange Treat (Hamner '90) is the earliest orange. It has tall stalks and very large flowers.

The Hamners describe the color of Inland Princess (Hamner '88) as Spanish orange with white falls bordered the color of the standards. But, the real glory of this one is its beautifully formed flowers, rippling with ruffles and lace.

Among the golds, Bold Gold (Gatty '87) is not only a smooth, bright gold, but it has healthy, clean foliage. Gold Country (Ghio '87) is a well formed, smooth gold from the tan side. More of a golden yellow, Radiant Energy (Maryott '86) has large, smooth textured flowers with wide, rounded falls heavily and evenly ruffled. This one is a favorite of Celeste Hamner, and she feels it has been overlooked. For some reason these three gold irises lost branching and bud count in the gardens during 1989. Hopefully, it was due to the year's unusual weather. Quasar (Hamner '86) may be more of an intense yellow, but it consistently has tall, well branched bloomstalks. Creme D'Or (Blyth '87) presents one of the most spectacular scenes in the garden. It has bright, golden yellow standards and white falls edged the color of the standards. The flower is perfectly formed with even ruffling around the falls. Buttercrisp (Aitken '86) is somewhat similar to Creme D'Or in that the overall effect is its great asset. Although it is shorter at twenty-nine inches in height, it is in perfect proportion. As its name implies, it is butter yellow with a white area in the falls and is crisp in substance. Sunbridge (Ev. Kegerise '87) may not have the largest flowers in the garden, but they are well in proportion with the rest of the plant. The flower is a smooth textured, totally bright yellow self with no white area or spots. This is yet another iris that presents a clean total picture.

The red-bearded whites have certainly developed outstanding flowers in the area of great size, form, lace, and substance as seen in My Valentine (Hager '87) and Chosen One (Hamner '87). Christmas Rubies (Hamblen '78) has long held the honor of having the reddest beard, but there are many reports of one or two of her children out-performing her in this aspect.

Among the blue-bearded whites, Codicil (Innerst '85) may have the darkest beard and Autograph (Luihn '86) the lightest colored flowers, but another iris completely steals the show. Chico Maid (Luihn '85) performed spectacularly every year since its appearance as a seedling. A huge, two-year clump in the Hamner garden was loaded with tall show-branched stalks covered with perfectly formed flowers. The overall spectacle was overwhelming. Some fear that the fame of its parent, Song of Norway, will detract from its glory, but it need not be. It doesn't appear that Vanity has detracted from the popularity of Beverly Sills.

Kuniko (Gatty '87) stands as a worthy new addition to the laced, whites, setting new standards for this class. With a slight blue cast in its smooth white coloration, Crystalyn (B. Dunn '86) is beautifully formed. It produces show stalks with plenty of bloom. Another white with a slight blue cast is Winterscape (McWhirter '85). The flowers are large, well formed and ruffled, with good substance. Silverado (Schreiners '87) has deservedly gained much popularity due to its spectacularly ruffled flowers. Hopefully, it will reach its full height next year. Famed for its unique dark blue violet wash on the falls, Honky Tonk Blues (Schreiners '88) has large, well formed flowers with show-branched bloomstalks. Yet another outstanding Schreiner blue, Breakers ('86) is more of a medium blue violet, also with ruffled, well formed flowers. The bloomstalks are tall and show-branched, with three perfectly placed opened flowers on many stalks. At times a stalk needs staking and some flowers have more narrow hafts, but the overall performance is superior. Royal Elegance (Gatty '88) proudly displays tall, strong stalks with nicely ruffled, large mid-blue flowers. Yankee Pride (Maryott '89) is noteworthy for its strikingly true, bright blue color although all other characteristics are also great. Quintessence (Hamner '90) is a great addition to the iris world, with possibly the best formed flowers and the most ruffled iris ever seen before. The flowers are mid blue-violet in color, large in size, and on tall, sturdy, well-branched bloomstalks. The Hamners won the Exhibition Certificate with this one at the Inland Iris Society Show.

Dusky Challenger (Schreiners '86) seems to have a proclivity for producing show-winning bloomstalks. The flowers are large and smoothly colored a rich dark purple and perfectly placed on a sturdy, well-branched stalk. Houdini (Maryott '85) has won local support by being one of the earliest blacks to bloom. In addition, its flowers are some of the best formed and most ruffled in this class. Evening Gown (Ghio '87) is not only tall and well branched, but it has a most intriguing darker beard. Satin Satan (Weiler '86) displays one of the highest bud counts to be found on a black iris. For color intensity or depth Blackout (Luihn '85) wins out. Unfortunately, it blooms late and tends to be low in bud count and high in branching.

Plum News (Rudolph '85) may be a small flowered plum colored iris, but it has good branching and a certain charm. The smooth magenta coloring of Loyalist (Schreiners '88) on well formed flowers and nicely branched stalks will probably be very popular with iris lovers. This is another iris that presents a good overall impression. Appropriately named Burgundy Ruffles (Maryott '86) is outstanding for its smooth burgundy coloring and beautiful ruffles. King's Ruby (Hamner '89) has a most intriguing color of ruby-maroon with a self beard. It is ruffled with good form and typical Hamner show-branching, high bud count and plant vigor. Warrior King (Schreiners '85) continues to have the best coloration in the traditional red class.

Macho Hombe (Hamner '88) comes the closest to being a red-bearded brown, with a reddish orange cast. The flowers are ruffled and well formed on tall, well branched stalks. Verismo (Hager '87) has a darker shade of brown with nicely shaped, ruffled flowers. Chief Mohawk (Hamner '89) is more of a

brassy golden brown with darker rust brown washed across the standards and falls. The bloomstalks are tall and the flowers are very large.

Fragrant Lilac (Hager '86) blooms so late that many may miss this one. But once seen, this lovely lilac, loaded with lace, will not be forgotten. Another late one is Ever After (Keppel '86). This one is deep fuchsia rose with striking red beards and also loaded with ruffles and lace.

At the other end of the season is Composed (Hamner '90), a pink lavender rose, one of the first to bloom and continuing through mid season. This one was voted best seedling at the 1989 Region 15 Spring Trek. Obsession (Maryott '87) has a most beautiful color of rose orchid and wide formed flowers on well branched stalks. One could easily develop an obsession for this beauty.

Outstanding in every aspect, Edith Wolford (Hager '88), performs faultlessly everywhere. This one has a great destiny. In Town (Blyth '88) is much like its parent, Magic Man, but seems a bit more appealing in color and form. Much more subdued and pastel in color is Lullaby of Spring (Schreiners '87) with soft yellow standards and lavender falls. The whole plant is on a larger scale with large flowers on tall, show-branched bloomstalks. This is yet another iris with a good overall appearance. Best Bet (Schreiners '88) made a more favorable impression in the Hamner garden, with well formed flowers, light blue standards and velvety dark violet falls. Song Sung Blue (Boushay '85) with pale violet blue standards and violet purple falls displayed good color on a very nicely formed flower.

Miss Tootsie (Hamner '89) may prove to be the most attractive pink amoena yet, with almost totally white standards and peach pink falls distinctively bordered the color of the standards. The wide form, abundant ruffling, and good bud count help move this one to the top of the pink amoena class.

Winifred Ross (Hamblen '88) with peach standards and lavender rose falls is another of this hybridizer's beautiful introductions in this class. The accent is on the smooth coloration in the large, wide hafted, flaring flowers on tall vigorous stalks.

Of Keith Keppel's new raspberry to rose plicata introductions, Beguine, Rosarita, and Raspberry Fudge, the latter seemed the most appealing this year. Grape Freeze (Hamner '87) is similar in color, being mulberry rose. Attractively unique for its pattern of blue violet dusting washed across the petals, Cruzin (M. Dunn '87) has nicely ruffled flowers on tall show-branched stalks. So dark is the border on Licorice Fantasy (Gibson '86) that it burns dry on older flowers in extremely hot weather. This is probably the ultimate in color for the black plicata.

Similar to its parent Blue Staccato, Rare Treat (Schreiners '87) poses a striking contrast with pure white standards and falls edged in dark blue purple stitching. Of the Chuckles, Hot Streak, Desert Fox cross, Desert Fox (Ghio '89) appears to be the best with better bud count, better form, and an abundance of ruffles. The color of light yellow ground bordered tannish brown seemed to be an attractive combination.

Unusual irises are attracting more attention than ever. They may not yet have the branching or bud count of others, but they have improved dramatically in flower form, color, and substance. The horned and spooned irises are

a good example. Howdy Do (Byers '86) is a nicely ruffled silvery white with blue horns. A modern formed, laced, and ruffled Pagan Pink (Byers '88) has medium pink colored flowers with orange red beards and horns. Under the surface of the beard and horn is a beautiful glowing shade of amethyst orchid.

No doubt some great iris varieties have been overlooked and others slighted, but there's always another year to make amends. And part of the fun is anticipating what new discoveries the iris rainbow may bring in the future.

Nebraska in 1989

Hooker Nichols (Oklahoma)

Two separate journeys north during the latter part of May enabled me to visit several lovely iris gardens in the Lincoln-Omaha area. These people not only know how to grow fine irises, but they like to show them off to their visitors.

Supreme Sultan (Schreiners) was magnificent in several of the gardens. Undoubtedly, this is one of the largest irises ever introduced. The flowers are huge on well branched stalks towering above vigorous plants—a lovely variegata having tan-gold standards over maroon falls. Divine (M. Dunn) certainly looked perky in several gardens after the heavy rains the night before I saw them. This one is certainly one of the best neglectas on the market, with a nice zonal pattern. Blowtorch (M. Byers) looked very good in the Memphis tour gardens and even better in the future Nebraska tour gardens. It is a lovely soft to medium yellow flower with long blue horns attached to the orange beards.

Point of View (E. Kegerise) was lavishly dressed in ruffled and lightly laced orchid flowers with peach and white beards. Well branched with many buds. Excellent growth habits on this magnificent iris. Let's Dance (R. Nelson) took me by surprise because it was much more beautiful than its description in the catalogs. Ruffled medium yellow standards and red-violet falls with lighter edges which are thinly edged greyed orange-tan. The beards are greyed-orange. This iris forms an instant clump from single rhizomes. Ginger Swirl (Schreiners) continues to win over more and more fans yearly. The ruffled flowers are always displayed on fantastic stalks. Tan gold flowers have nearly an orchid center in the fall area. One cannot fault this beauty.

Evelyn's Echo (E. Kegerise) gets better every time I see it anywhere. The tall well branched stalks display the deep purple flowers with endless profusion of ruffles. The delightful iris seems to grow well all over the country. Any Sundae (Durrance) certainly will take its place as one of the truly outstanding new whites with a vivid red beard. The flowers are ruffled and very laced. It appears that this one will be a good grower. Tennison Ridge (Bégley) looked right at home in Nebraska. It was lovely out in California and had grown very well in Nebraska. The ruffled flowers have solidly colored plum burgundy standards and white ground falls with plum burgundy stitched edges and darker hafts. Altruist (Schreiners) delights all with ruffled light blue flowers blended white on both standards and falls—another iris with few faults.

Lingering Melody (Gaddie) created an interesting clump because the laced violet blue flowers fade to a lighter color with a darker rim. White and orange flowers complement this fine beauty. Heavenly Halo (Gartman) caught my eye simply because it is a really good cream colored iris with yellow halos on both the standards and the falls. Excellent growth habits with this one too. Song of Solitude (Hummel) refreshed the garden visitors with ruffled white flowers with white and yellow beards. It is nice to see a new good white on the market. Joyous Cadence (Hummel) bloomed its head off in several gardens. It has primrose yellow standards and white falls edged yellow with deeper colored hafts. The beards accent the whole flower because they are bright canary yellow. Simply not just another yellow and white iris.

Dear Dorothy (Roderick) stopped the people in their tracks with its beautiful flowers. Standards are yellow orange and the falls are powder purple with yellow orange edges and hafts. The beards are yellow and orange and are really a complement to the whole flower. Amy Cathryn (Gaulter) was a reverse lavender bitone with lighter falls and bright red orange beards. Tall, well branched stalks displayed the flowers beautifully. Pauline Cooley (Gaulter) so elegantly displayed itself with beautiful stalks. The flowers are not extra wide, but the coloration makes up for this one fault. Ruffled caramel pink standards tower over apricot falls with apricot-buff hafts, white centers and bright red beards. Certainly one that anyone could not help but notice. Juris Prudence (Ernst) beckoned me over to it with outstanding features. The ruffled and lightly laced flowers are near white with blue and yellow beards. This one was much prettier in person than in the catalog.

Mother Earth (Hager) in a clump cannot go unnoticed. Blended cream lavender standards with lavender falls and beige hafts. Elegance and style unlimited. Gold Country (Ghio) attracted much attention with tan gold flowers and complementing beards. Well branched stalks displayed many flowers in more than one garden. Zinc Pink (Ensminger) was certainly the little darling of the Memphis Convention, but it was even more beautiful in its home state. The laced French rose flowers are perfect to every degree. One cannot go away from this little beauty without taking a final backward glance to admire its beauty. Sonja's Selah (Ensminger) caught my eye with ruffled white standards and shrimp red falls with a white edge. These two border bearded were simply great!

Union Pacific (C. March) probably was the most appealing seedling I viewed last spring. If you liked Dazzling Gold and Fanfaron, you will surely like this exquisite beauty. A deep gold colored iris washed red throughout the fall area. Ruffles and style galore. Pinch of Spice (Moore) was one of the nicest border irises seen on the pre-convention tour. It may be described as a golden yellow ground heavily marked cinnamon plicata with a white flash below the golden yellow beards. Not just another plicata. Lullaby of Spring (Schreiners) cannot be fully appreciated unless seen blooming in a clump in full bloom. Ruffled flowers have lemon standards and soft lavender falls. The substance on this one will make it hold up to all types of weather. Crystal Glitters (Schreiners) continues to make people appreciate a cream toned irises. A subtle blend of creamy peach with darker hafts and orange beards

make this beauty almost good enough to eat. Silverado (Schreiners) stopped all of us dead in our tracks. The blue white flowers with creamy white and tangerine beards deep in the throat are impeccable. Not enough can be said about this new iris. Sweet Musette (Schreiners) was the favorite iris in my home garden with the visitors. Tall well branched stalks displayed the beautiful flowers to their fullest glory. The catalog describes this iris as a flamingo and rose bitone with tangerine beards. The stalks seen on plants in Nebraska were even better. Clarence Blocher (R. Nelson) showed off itself with very ruffled violet blue flowers with a white area around the beards. An excellent garden iris. Yukon Twilight (Durrance) simply was super with light blue flowers sporting darker blue beards. Good branching and consistent growth in all areas where it was seen growing. Honky Tonk Blues (Schreiners) leaves little to be imagined with its lovely ruffled flowers that seem to have a unique coloration of violet blue washed over a pure white undercoating. Stunning!

Kuniko (Gatty) makes one really appreciate a truly fine iris. Stunningly beautiful ruffled white flowers are borne on great stalks. This one has enough substance to share with all the others around it. Hollywood Blonde (Gatty) received much favorable attention with fantastic flowers that are luscious with soft yellow standards and lighter cream colored falls with hafts being the color of the standards. Delicate Balance (Gatty) can best be described as a wonderful blending of white and peach toned hues in the form of a reverse bicolor. Raspberry Fudge (Keppel) certainly was very different with yellow ground standards nearly covered with tan raspberry plicata markings and falls being cream with dark brown raspberry hafts and borders. Dark red beards add the final beautiful touch to this iris.

Bernice Roe (Maryott) continues the fine tradition that several hybridizers are currently working for, and that is the illusive yellow amoena. This good approach to this goal is certainly one that should be in many iris lover's gardens. Return to Elegance (I. Nelson) again and again made me return to examine it. The creamy yellow ground rose plicata was most beautiful. Swing King (Magee) sparkled with lightly laced flowers having gold standards, ivory falls with a gold edge and gold beards. Pretty and poised. Heavenly Therese (F. Carr) bloomed on nice stalks having light pink flowers with tangerine beards. Parfait Delight (Shockey) on a first year plant was blooming just like it had been there for two years. Ruffled peach standards and white falls edged peach-pink with red beards. Just as beautiful there in the Nebraska gardens as it had been in the Oklahoma gardens earlier. Candlegleam (Keppel) shimmered with light yellow standards, creamy yellow-white falls with red beards. Wonderful stalks were exhibited with many flowers. Seaport (Keppel) has to be one of the finest neglecta-plicatas I saw in Nebraska. The colors are so crisp that they look artificial. Rustler (Keppel) could be seen from clear across several gardens because of its bright flowers. Standards are blended amber-red and the falls are darker henna with lighter edges. The yellow-orange beards are different and quite interesting.

Walking Tall (Aitken) with its butterscotch standards and rosy lavender falls with darker tannish hafts and fall edges looked very good in several locations. Upper Class (F. Rogers) was quite stylish with white flowers sporting yellow

hafts. The flowers had lovely form. Round Table (Ghio) turned many heads with lemon gold ground flowers stitched dark brown. This one seems to be as good a grower in Nebraska as elsewhere. Impressionist (Ghio) made quite a friend with me. The ruffled standards are amber with rose colored bases and the rose-wine falls had rose amber edges and lovely tangerine beards. Crystal Dreams (Shockey) had much more intensely colored flowers up in Nebraska than here in my home garden. The flowers are ruffled and displayed on well branched stalks. Pink standards blend to violet edges with white falls flushed blue-pink with narrow pink edges. The cerise beards have blue tips. The touch of lace to the overall flower accents the whole picture one is viewing.

Champagne Elegance (Niswonger) has to be one of the finest creations to come from this Missouri hybridizer. Ruffled standards are champagne buff with just a touch of pink at the midrib, and the broadly ruffled falls are creamy apricot beige with amber beards. A dependable rebloomer in the Midwest, South, and on the West Coast. Pacific Tide (Cowdery) pleases the viewer with refreshing light blue flowers with light yellow beards. Well branched stalks and many buds. Fine China (Gatty) in several gardens had lovely white flowers that were displayed beautifully on wonderful stalks. Apollodorus (Tompkins) could not be passed by without a comment. The ruffled flowers had coppery tan standards with oxblood brown falls edged the color of the standards. Unique and very different.

Deity (M. Byers) caused a sensation in Oklahoma in 1988 and will gain many followers this year in Nebraska. Nicely formed blue white flowers with long bluish horns. An excellent grower producing instant clumps. Jazzebel (Ensminger) is not simply just another plicata. The ruffled white standards are held above white falls which have a bluebird inner border and an outer border of white. Bronze beards complement this flower too. Chippewa Brave (F. Rogers) had to be one of the most beautiful, but very different irises I viewed last spring. Standards were greyed orange and the falls were greyed purple with a greyed orange edge. There is a white area below the greyed orange beard. One that has to be seen to be truly appreciated. Parquet (Williamson) seemed to be growing and blooming well in several gardens. A cream ground plicata with rose-brown markings. Well branched and lovely.

Loyalist (Schreiners) keeps on getting more attractive each time I see it. The cerise wine colored flowers are displayed on fantastic stalks. If you are lucky enough to view this iris as the rays of the setting sun strike it, you will indeed be in for a treat! Urgent (Nichols) commanded notice with its bright orange-red flowers with toasted edges and ruffles. Acapulco Sunset (Nichols) impressed many with its ruffled bright yellow flowers with near red beards. Well branched stalks and many buds.



TIMESCAPE (Hager 1990)

\$35.00

(See brochure for EXTRA)

Late 1990 introduction not included in this year's brochure

Tall Bearded sdg. T4674RfBlBld, 40". Parentage: T4222Bl2: (Silver Flow sib x ((Sea Venture x sdg.) x (((Babson sdg. x Morning Breeze) x Dream Time) x Silver Years) x Surf Rider))) X Olympiad.

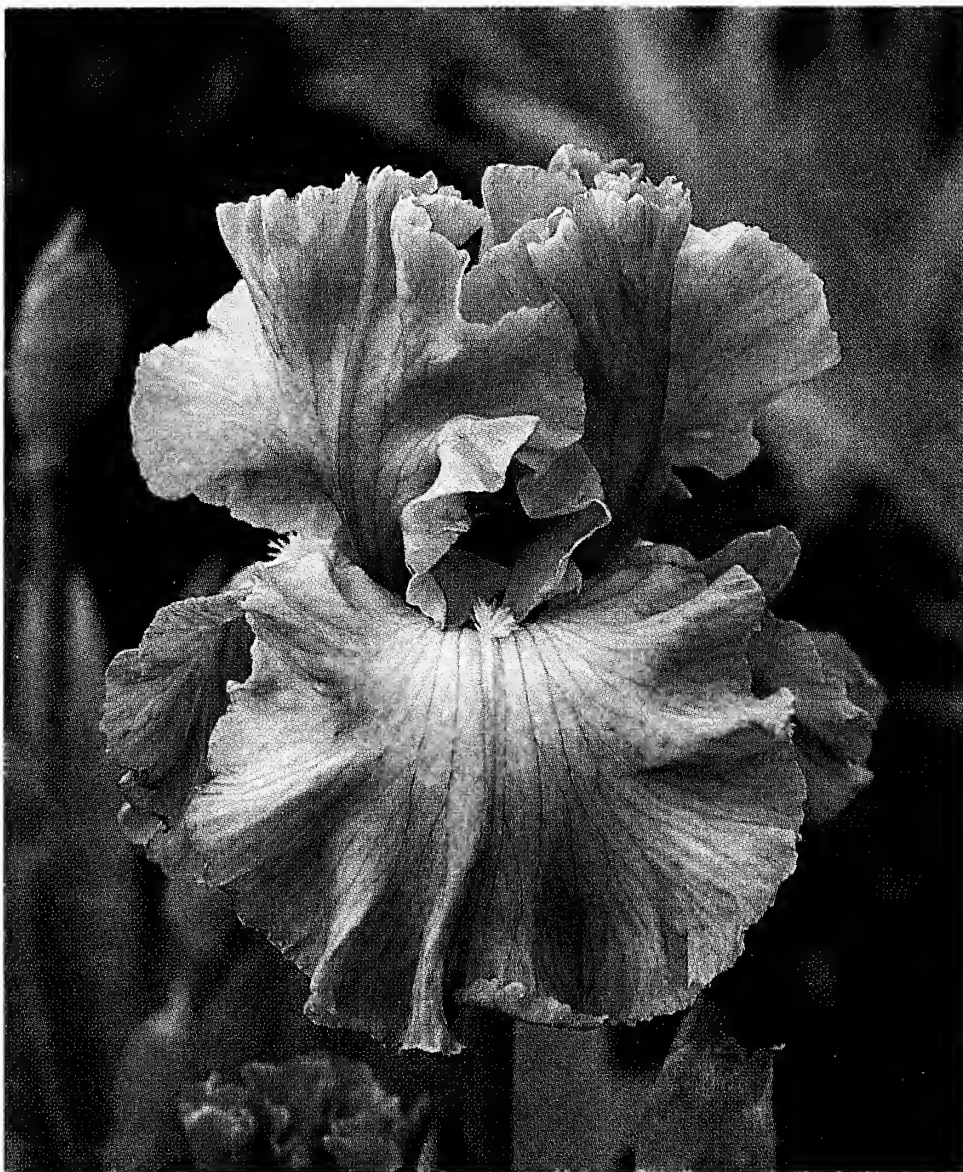
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BIG SKY (Hager 1990)

\$35.00

(See brochure for EXTRA)

Late 1990 introduction not included in this year's brochure

Tall Bearded sdlg. T4659B1Sh, 36", (blue sib to Edith Wolford X Welcome Aboard.)

The color is a medium blue, on the lighter side. Our camera always has difficulty with the color blue, even on a cloudy day. Large flowers with plenty of substance and branching.

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Growing Spurias in Southern Idaho

Robert L. Jensen (Idaho)

The only group of beardless irises which seem to be completely at home in my southeastern Idaho garden, with its alkaline soil, are the spurias. At an elevation of nearly 6000 feet, winter temperatures as low as 35 to 40 degrees below zero are not unheard of, although thankfully are not too often encountered. Almost all of the spuria varieties have proved to be perfectly hardy here.

I enjoy growing spurias for several reasons. They extend the bloom season at least three weeks and sometimes more. When the tall bearded plantings are mostly spent bloomstalks and faded flowers, the spuria beds are filled with fresh buds and newly opened flowers. Spurias do not demand the frequent digging and resetting required by most bearded irises. In fact, they do well when left undisturbed for a number of years, often as many as ten or twelve, increasing in size of clump and amount of bloom each year. In my garden the bearded irises are sometimes the victim of killing frosts that can wipe out all blooms and stalks at peak bloom time, or even worse, just as bloom is beginning. This is most discouraging. The spurias with their later bloom season seldom encounter this.

A well grown bed of spurias is as showy and beautiful as any other type of iris. The color range is expanding all the time. There are yellows in every shade from palest cream to near orange; blues and violets, purple and near black, browns ranging from deepest chocolate brown to light tan, white, and combinations of all these, some even resemble the plicatas of bearded iris. And there are red and pink tones, but don't expect a pink with the color of Beverly Sills or a red as brilliant as a Felix Crousse peony.

Spurias are heavy feeders and appreciate regular applications of fertilizer and compost and lots of water until after blooming, at which time they can tolerate quite dry conditions.

Eventually, they will need digging and resetting, but sometimes this can be postponed for awhile. In the spring of 1986 the clumps in my main spuria bed were getting so large they were beginning to crowd each other and grow together. I felt I had to do something about it and decided to try thinning and reducing the size of many clumps by taking out part of the fans and especially the old bloomed out centers but leaving the most promising and vigorous younger fans carefully undisturbed. Seven varieties were discarded and a very few completely reset. Most of the others were reduced to small and medium sized, healthy and well spaced clumps. By late June the buds were showing in surprising abundance. None of those reset were lost although they needed a year to recover. I have continued to do some thinning each season since then.

I try to keep my planting at about fifty varieties although a recent check reveals it is presently over sixty. The variety that has grown the longest in my garden is Sunny Day, introduced by Hans Sass in 1931 and the only spuria to come from this famous hybridizer. It was included in the first group of spurias I grew in the early 1950s. It is a bright and sunny yellow that always grows and

blooms well and although the flower form is not as refined as more recent varieties it is sort of the mascot among my spurias.

A great favorite has been Dawn Candle, which I look on as being almost a white and yellow amoena. This is another most reliable performer which is beautiful in flower and in name. Evening Dress is so dark it appears almost black and Purple Profundo is a unique shade of purple, though the color will fade somewhat in hot sun. Eleanor Hill is a fun variety that always blooms, a violet and bronzy yellow bicolor that is diifferent. For richest yellow color and beautiful flower form, Forty Carats certainly qualifies. Highline Halo in bright gold with a white halo around each petal is showy.

I expected pink when I bought Pink Candles, it is pinkish toned but in my garden it was a very vigorous variety which produced few bloomstalks. I eventually discarded it in favor of the newer Highline Coral and First Fruits. In red tones Cinnabar Red does well as does Imperial Ruby. Red Oak, though small flowered, has many stalks and gives quite a red garden effect.

Fable is very tall, is usually the first one to bloom, and has an interesting spider shaped flower of dark blue. Ethic is a pretty brown and blue that is different. Another favorite is Happy Choice in blue, yellow and white, the name is appropriate. I would never be without Fort Ridge. It is an electric shade of blue, unlike any other I have seen.

Newer additions that hold promise include the deep gold Destination; Imperial Sun in lemon yellow and gold; Capital Idea in dark blue purple and the blue-lavender Betty Cooper.

Two that I am hoping to see for the first time this season are Countess Zeppelin and Northern Muse.



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Let's Discuss Spurias

Floyd W. Wickenkamp (Arizona)

Members of the Spuria Iris Society will undoubtedly find that some of the following sounds familiar. It should be; much of it was lifted from a pamphlet which is sent to all new members when they join the Society, and that in turn was taken from various sources including Ben Hager's excellent chapter in THE WORLD OF IRISES.

The greatest concentration of activity in growing and hybridizing spurias is in the warmer and sunnier parts of the U.S., especially in California and the Southwest, including Texas and Missouri, but they are being grown successfully in such northern states as Minnesota and Montana and in parts of southern Canada as well as Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

Spurias prefer neutral to slightly alkaline soil and demand plenty of sunshine for good bloom. Even in such hot areas as southern Texas and the Arizona desert they do well in full sun. While they may grow lush leaves in shady areas, bloom may be sparse or non-existent. Spurias are heavy feeders and they like plenty of water during the fall and spring growing seasons but they also require good drainage. The choice of fertilizer depends upon local soil conditions but usually a general-purpose fertilizer high in phosphorus will suit the purpose. Some growers find a feeding of liquid fertilizer such as 15-30-15 at the start of the fall growth season and in early spring to be helpful. If the soil is heavy clay a liberal application of compost or other humus is desirable.

Most of the commercially-available spurias are "summer dormant," that is they stop growing during the hot weather and will survive in most areas without watering to supplement any summer rains. Even in such "summer dry" areas as the California Central Valley, water is normally withheld during the summer, reducing the chance of rot. There are a few varieties which are "summer-green" (e.g. BELISE), that is they continue to grow during the summer and these varieties will need some watering during dry weather.

In general, spurias are among the taller of the irises, averaging perhaps 3½ to 4½ feet in height under good growing conditions with a few as tall as five feet or more. However, a number of hybridizers have been working to obtain shorter plants with more compact blossoms; these have a definite place where space is limited or for use in arrangements. Some examples of the small to medium sized spuria blossoms are BELISE, AMBER RIPPLES, BORDERTOWN, RUFFLED CANARY, ELIXIR, DESTINATION, DIMINUENDO and NOW THIS.

While spurias are generally quite free of disease, they are susceptible to crown rot caused by mustard-seed fungus, especially in the southern and western states and where a combination of hot weather and moisture are present. The best protection against mustard-seed fungus is to soak all rhizomes before planting in a 5 to 10% solution of sodium hypochlorite (Clorox, etc.) and to treat the soil with Terraclor (Benamyl, PCNB). Terraclor is available as a liquid in drums but for small gardens the 75% wettable powder

may be more economical. A light dusting over the planting area, well dug in, should prove adequate, although a further safeguard used by some growers is to dust the rhizome itself as well. Benlate is also used by some growers to protect against some other soil-borne fungus. Incidentally, crown rot also attacks TBs, Japanese and Siberians so it is best not to let it get started in your beds.

In selecting cultivars for your area, probably the most reliable source of information would be other growers in the same area. Lacking such advice, your best bet may be to select those cultivars which have received high ratings in the A.I.S. Awards lists. The Eric Nies Award is based on votes of A.I.S. judges from many parts of the world, indicating that a particular variety does well under many conditions. Some of the earlier Nies Award winners may be difficult or impossible to find, but the following should be available from the usual commercial sources:

GOLDEN LADY, a large lemon-yellow self (Nies 1958).

ELIXIR, a compact orange-yellow (Nies 1963).

DAWN CANDLE, standards cream, falls light yellow (Nies 1968).

BARITONE, a large brown (Nies 1970).

HIGHLINE LAVENDER, standards lavender, falls yellow striped lavender (Nies 1971).

PORT OF CALL, mid-violet-blue (Nies 1972).

ARCHIE OWEN, ruffled bright yellow self (Nies 1973).

MARILYN HOLLOWAY, standards pale lavender, falls yellow edge-striped pale lavender (Nies 1974).

IMPERIAL BRONZE, golden yellow veined brown (Nies 1975).

FORTY CARATS, deep yellow self (Nies 1976).

PROVERB, deep blue-violet self (Nies 1977).

CLARKE COSGROVE, lavender-blue self (Nies 1978).

ILA CRAWFORD, ruffled white self (Nies 1979).

BUTTERED CHOCOLATE, dark brown, yellow markings (Nies 1980).

IMPERIAL RUBY, violet-red self (Nies 1981).

FERGY'S POETRY, red-violet bitone (Nies 1982).

HIGHLINE HONEY, honey yellow with brown markings (Nies 1983).

ADOBE SUNSET, standards brown, falls yellow veined brown (Nies 1984).

IMPERIAL GOLD, ruffled bright yellow self (Nies 1985).

BETTY COOPER, light violet with gold and brown markings (Nies 1986).

SON OF SUN, bright yellow self (Nies 1987).

JANICE CHESNIK, ruffled tawny gold self (Nies 1988).

DESTINATION, bright deep orange self (Nies 1989).

So far in this article we have concentrated on spuria culture. Now I want to talk about the hopes and plans of the Spuria Iris Society for the future. Not nearly as much effort has been put into the improvement of the spurias as is the case especially with the tall bearded and certain of the medians, and in recent years, the Louisianas, and it is high time that more hybridizers become interested in this wide open field. It is our hope that we can show sufficient activity in the development of new and improved spuria cultivars to convince the A.I.S. Board that it is time to raise the Eric Nies Award to the status of a

Medal and to provide for an intermediate level of AM awards as was done with the Louisianas a few years ago.

There has been some increase in hybridizing activity in the past few years and it is encouraging to note in the 1989 Registrations and Introductions booklet that P. Anfosso of France and B. Blythe of Australia have both become active in registering new spurias. The 1989 list contains a total of 21 new registrations.

For those of you who would like to become involved but hesitate to do so for fear that your introductions will not be well received, I want to tell you a true story that shows what can happen when you least expect it. This story starts in 1978 when I planted a couple dozen seeds from a cross of ARCHIE OWEN X BARITONE. Most of the resulting blooms in 1981 were only good for the compost pile but there was one that didn't look too bad, so I decided to keep it another year. The next spring the Sun County Iris Society in Phoenix was the host to the Region 15 Trek and my garden was one of those on tour. My seedling SP-78-1 was in bloom, but I didn't pay much attention to it until I noticed people standing in line to get a photograph of it. Then at the Awards Dinner it was voted the outstanding seedling seen in the tour gardens. I still was leary of introducing it as it seemed to be just another yellow spuria. But I decided to go ahead on the urging of Janice Chesnik and Eleanor McCown, among others.

The next problem was to select a name. One day I was driving on Thunderbird Road between Interstate 17 and Sun City and I noticed a large sign which extolled the merits of a Quarter-horse Stallion on one of the nearby ranches. His name was SON OF SUN, and I thought to myself "that is a good name for a yellow iris originating in the Arizona desert."

By 1986 SON OF SUN had generated enough interest to receive 27 votes for "Favorite Guest Iris" at the San Jose Convention, and it also received an HM along the way.

The next chapter in this fairy story takes place in Phoenix at the 1987 National Convention, and one of the high points in my life. At the Awards Banquet it was announced that SON OF SUN had been awarded the President's Cup; a few weeks later when the "Favorite Guest Iris" ballots were counted, it had also won in that category, the first time in the history of the American Iris Society that a spuria iris has won either competition.

An interesting coincidence will be noted by looking at the little brass plates on the President's Cup base. For 1986 the award had gone to Ben Hager's EDITH WOLFORD, and right next to it was my SON OF SUN. The point is that Edith and I call ourselves "almost relatives" as she is a niece (by marriage) of one of my first cousins! Figure that one out.

So you beginning or wishful hybridizers take the bull by the horns and go ahead with that introduction; maybe luck will also come your way. After all, in my case most of the credit must go to Eleanor and Janice for their encouragement, without which SON OF SUN would probably have remained Seedling SP-78-1. Of course its parents should also be given some credit; after all, both ARCHIE OWEN and BARITONE were Eric Nies Award winners.

Getting Started with Spurias

Marilyn Holloway (California)

When one acquires a new home without landscaping, what does she do? In my case, my mother had grown irises for years, so she offered to supply a few plants to help fill that postage stamp size backyard with some color. The following season, an entry in the local show received a blue ribbon, so I caught the iris virus! As with most people, I grew the bearded varieties to start, then I discovered that there are the beardless types also.

Living in the inland valley of California can be an advantage as most iris species can be grown successfully even though some may need a few special requirements. By making raised beds, I solved most of my problems. It provided better drainage, easier weeding, and met the requirements for the spuria iris. As the tall bearded irises begin to fade, the spurias start to bloom so they became a way to extend the iris season. I found that spurias can stay in the same place longer than the bearded ones. So transplanting is not necessary as often. Spurias take full sun or some shade, and the flowers last longer than the bearded ones and make great cut flowers for the home or in arrangements.

About the time I became amoured with spurias, Walker Ferguson of Escondido was making great advancements as to flower size and form and color breaks. These exciting changes and the ease of growth—just good drainage and heavy feeding when growth is just starting—made spurias very special.

Spurias like a drying out period in mid summer until the fall rains begin. At this time the foliage will die back completely. The new growth will start in August or September. That's when the commercial dealers begin to ship them. It is very important that spurias be kept damp when they are not in the ground. They will not tolerate drying out like some others will.

First year plantings do not always bloom, but they will have better bloom stalks the next year. If the plant blooms the first year, it most likely will have shorter stalks and not the best branching and bud count. When judging spurias on first year plantings, always remember this because they are not the best they can be.

Many of the older varieties are still great garden favorites. These are good varieties for the first time grower.

BELISE (Simonet '67) Smaller flower of blue lavender with yellow veining. This has a species look but is great in the garden. Foliage stays green well into dormant season, so it is a great garden plant with good branching too.

DAWN CANDLE (Ferguson '65) White with yellow signal on falls with a hint of ruffling. This can grow 4 or 5 feet bloom stalks, so it's for the back of the bed. It makes very nice stalks.

PORT OF CALL (Hager '66) Medium violet blue with lighter yellow signal on the fall. Nice stalk and branching.

PREMIER (Ball 1899) This is very deep blue in the garden. A smaller flower like Belise, it has been around a while but is still a winner.

PROVERB (Ferguson '71) This very dark blue purple self with large yellow

signal has wide flower parts and is very showy.

REDWOOD SUPREME (Niswonger '79) Standards dark brown with falls orange edged dark brown. Branched and makes a super clump.

BUTTER PADDLE (Niswonger '75) Medium brown with gold speckles on falls instead of veins. Gives a super looking flower. One of my favorites.

ARCHIE OWEN (Hager '70) This is a very bright yellow self with super form and ruffles. A well branched stalk can be a Queen of the Show.

MORNINGTIDE (M. Walker '56) This white self with large yellow signal has been used often by hybridizers. Some of its seedlings are well known.

GOLDEN LADY (Combs '58) and WHITE HERON (Milliken '48) are still great garden plants.

IMPERIAL BRONZE (McCown '71) Bright yellow heavily veined brown gives effect of deep bronze. Well branched and very popular.

MARILYN HOLLOWAY (Hager '71) A pale blue lavender with lemon blaze in fall. Ruffled and well branched.

ILA CRAWFORD (Hager '76) A lace-effect white with orange yellow signal. Nice shaped flower and stalk.

CLARKE COSGROVE (Hager '75) Medium blue self with small yellow spot. A very compact plant with wide flower parts. Very nice stalk.

The 1980's brought many great spurias. More progress was made with veining, spots and lack of spots, and more color variations than had been available before.

VINTAGE YEAR (Niswonger '80) This is the color of the TB Allegiance with a small yellow signal. Very showy in the garden.

ELEANOR HILL (Hager '80) This has purple standards with bronze falls—a bicolor in spurias. Well shaped flowers, good stem and branching.

CUSTOM DESIGN (Hager '81) Dark maroon brown with yellow signal. Well branched and very showy.

NOW THIS (Hager '83) A compact, wide petaled flower of mauve color with gold veins in falls. The standard color almost obliterates the signal.

HIGHLINE CORAL (McCown '86) A unique color of coral brown with ruffles. Small yellow signal and nice branching.

SON OF SUN (Wickenkamp '83) A very bright yellow self from Arizona. Has been very popular. Nice in a clump.

KAIBAB TRAILS (Wickenkamp '85) Maroon brown with yellow signal in falls. Nice garden plant habits.

SNOW HAWK (Corlew '88) Large flower of white standards. Falls white with gold signal spreading almost to the edge of the fall. Good branching and ruffling.

LUCKY DEVIL (Ghio '88) This one is for the front of the bed. A deep purple that looks black and on a compact form.

JANICE CHESNIK (McCown '84) A lovely ruffled gold tan self. Great branching with broad petals. Super.

DESTINATION (Hager '84) Lovely deep orange yellow self, good garden color. Medium sized flowers with 2 and 3 branches plus terminal.

COUNTESS ZEPPELIN (Hager '87) This is a deep rich mauve red wine color with bronze gold styles and crests. Good branching.

Most spurias are 36 and 48 inches tall, so are best for the background planting. However, the hybridizers have a few shorter spurias for the front of the beds. More will be out in the future. This is a great addition for the gardens. I hope you will try spurias as they come in many colors. You'll be rewarded with lovely flowers to enjoy and they have a charm all their own.

Yes, But Why Black Ones?

Thom Ericson (Colorado)

In any person's life there are times that stand out as if they had happened only yesterday. When I picked up the 1990 Schreiners' catalog at the mailbox this spring and saw "Night Ruler" on the cover, I couldn't help but have one of those rare "sweet moments" that come to mind from time to time.

It began when I saw what later turned out to be the 1955 Dykes Medal winner "Sable Night" for the first time. At the time, I didn't realize that it would be special, but the constant reoccurrence makes it more and more so.

While walking one morning in late May, 1978, I happened to look over a fence to see a man working in his garden. The thing that drew me back as I walked was remembering having seen irises—not just any iris, but one IRIS like I had never seen before. This iris so fascinated me that I had to glance over the fence again on my way home from work. What had me so wonderstruck was a single iris bloom stalk, lovely, and Oh! such dark flowers. I had never seen beauty like that before.

I had to look again the next day, and I saw a little old gentleman, oblivious to my presence, as I leaned on his fence. Questions formed in my mind about this strange person who was tearing apart perfectly good flowers. Introducing myself, I had the pleasure to meet Dr. R. A. Paige and his lovely wife, who gave me the twenty-five cent tour of their small back yard.

Looking back, I realize it must have taken weeks to answer all my questions, and I was hooked. We still visit and discuss different lines and how my projects are coming along. Boy, I sure hope I can daub pollen as well as he does when I reach 89 years young.

I don't believe there is any feeling quite like the one you get when the seeds from your very first cross germinate and send up their little spikes for their first drink of spring sunshine—or the exhilaration felt when those same seedlings bloom for the first time. I have discovered some of the most incredible beauty in even the most "ugly" of these, knowing I played a small part in its creation.

My first experience with a black iris was wonderful, and I have the very deepest love for the darkest of reds, blues and purples. I don't think I can see an iris without experiencing one of those special memories. A "black iris" brings back the most treasured of all.

Rebloom in Texas

Walter Moores (Mississippi)

Success with reblooming (remontant) irises in hot, dry climates may be attained with careful selection of cultivars and additional cultural practices.

When I first became interested in reblooming irises in the mid sixties, the cultivars I grew at that time are too horrid to contemplate today (poor form, thin substance, etc.) These were created by the Sasses of Nebraska and G. Percy Brown of Massachusetts. (Indeed, they served their purpose in the 30's, 40's, and 50's). I had heard that the Sass and Brown irises were dependable rebloomers. They were, but invariably they would attempt rebloom in the heat and drought of July and August. These summer conditions in Texas were responsible for runted stalks with bunched and deformed flowers that barely lasted a day.

Dr. Clarence P. Denman, a local hybridizer who was working with rebloomers, introduced to me the more refined Tom Craig irises, which waited until cooler weather to rebloom. Dr. Denman had been crossing the Craig irises with the cold climate rebloomers of G. Percy Brown and Lloyd Zurbrigg in an attempt to obtain rebloomers that combined the reliability of the Massachusetts-Virginia irises with the beauty of the Craig irises with a target date of October or early November as the bloom time.

As interest has increased with the rebloomers and as more have been hybridized or have appeared by accident, I would suggest that the prospective grower consult the Reblooming Iris Society and find out what does well in that grower's climate. Reblooming cultivars are quite regional in their performance. Many irises will rebloom along the California coast but nowhere else, and buyers should be aware of this fact.

Also, in the remontant camp, there are proponents of "everblooming" irises for the entire country. I would seriously question their attempts and warn the consumer in the hot, dry areas. The climates of the South and Southwest preclude any such "everbloomers" from performing satisfactorily because of the pitfalls already mentioned. Who wants to display a deformed, sun-bleached iris riddled with cucumber beetle bites in the middle of August?

The biggest problem in producing a second bloom crop for irises is to keep the plants from entering dormancy. I am listing the procedures I have used over the years.

1. Plant all your rebloomers in the same bed for easier cultivation.
2. Sidedress remontant clumps with a balanced fertilizer shortly after spring bloom.
3. When the weather warms, spray with a low nitrogen foliar plant food every two or three weeks. Do not use Rapid Grow as it induces rot. A product called BR-61 has proven effective. Cease spraying with the arrival of cooler weather in October. Add an insecticide when buds appear to combat destruction by cucumber beetles.
4. If drought occurs, watering is necessary, but do not use overhead sprinklers. Since most of us cannot afford underground drip irrigation sys-

tems, we must use some sort of surface irrigation. It is best to dig trenches with a Warren hoe and soak the trenches with a garden hose. When the water soaks to the feeder roots, it should be turned off or the hose moved to another trench.

5. If Mother Nature does not provide afternoon shade, the gardener must provide shade artificially. It is true that some of my tactics have been unorthodox and have “tackied up” the garden, but garden visitors were few in the summer anyway. To provide shade, I have wrapped clumps with milk cartons. It is necessary to remove the bottom; slit one side, and anchor in the soil when it is moist.

I have also used wooden shingles to make teepees over the clumps. The least effective “ground cover” shade technique I used was wrapping the clumps with newspapers and fastening them to the fans with clothes pins. The wind had a bad habit of blowing the newspaper away even with clods of soil, bricks, or rocks used as anchors. A rain also renders useless the newspaper wrap. The most effective artificial shade I used was nursery screen attached to sawhorses, nailed securely, and placed over the bed. All of the above procedures are unsightly, but if one is hungry for repeat bloom, one will do almost anything. With the arrival of cooler weather, all of the extra work for rebloom will be well rewarded when one takes the blooms to the fall meetings and even to Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners where everyone is in awe over the rebloomers.

1989 MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Mary Kearney

The results of the 1989 Membership Contest have been tabulated and the winners are as follows:

High points for individual contestants

First Place	Katherine Boyette of Region 4	385 points
Second Place	Mrs. John McMillan of Region 16	315 points
Third Place	William Vines of Region 7	250 points
Fourth Place	Allan Ensminger of Region 21	230 points
Fifth Place	James McWhirter of Region 14	160 points

High points for Affiliates

First Place	Garden State Iris Society Region 19	415 points
Second Place	Memphis Area Iris Society Region 7	400 points
Third Place	Tidewater Iris Society Region 4	190 points

We thank Mary Kearney for her work as Membership Contest Chairman. We are all winners when we recruit new members and it is gratifying to see an increase in interest and participation in the contest. If we could, each, recruit one new member, what a terrific Society this would be. Keep up the good work.—Lucy Fry

Reblooming Irises in Region 21

James L. Ennenga (Nebraska)

Interest in reblooming irises certainly has changed since I became interested enough to join the Reblooming Iris Society in 1971. At that time, Clifford Smith of Vermillion, South Dakota, Art and Irene Nelson of Omaha, Nebraska, and I were, to my knowledge, the only irisarians, in the region who were deliberately attempting to grow reblooming irises. Now, there are 16 members of the RIS in Iowa and Nebraska, with more members expected this year.

Our climate has played a large part in retarding the growth in the number of reblooming iris fanciers in Region 21. Our weather is considered "Severe Weather" by reblooming iris standards. Our last freeze of the spring usually comes in the first part of May, and in Omaha we can expect freezing weather in the middle of September. Farther north in the region, the frosts come earlier.

Basically, a reblooming iris must grow twice as fast as a one-time blooming iris in order to bloom in the spring and again in the fall and still mature rhizomes to bloom again in the following spring. This is asking quite an effort from any iris.

In the days of the Sass brothers, reblooming irises occasionally showed up in their gardens. These were encouraged and named by the Sassses. Since then, very few hybridizers have done much work with reblooming irises. However, the efforts of three hybridizers have stood out in the breeding of irises which will rebloom in the more severe climates. These are Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg of Radford, VA; Dr. Ramond Smith of Bloomington, IN.; and Frank Jones of Mercerville, NJ. Not all of their irises will rebloom here, but enough will so that interest in rebloomers has increased dramatically because of their efforts. Of course, many other hybridizers have irises which rebloom here. Last year Dave Niswonger's CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE caused much excitement when it rebloomed in August in three gardens in Omaha and in two gardens in Lincoln, NE.; and it was not introduced as a reblooming iris.

Growing reblooming irises in a "Severe Weather" region requires hours of additional work, but many of us think it is worth the added effort. First, we must keep our irises growing, even during the heat of the summer, because we have a very short growing season. It is a little difficult to accomplish this when the temperature gets up around 105 degrees Fahrenheit, and it requires frequent watering. I have purchased soaker hoses made from reprocessed automobile tires that do a good job. The water oozes slowly out of the hoses and very little is wasted.

Another thing we must realize is that the irises are growing and require additional food. Most of us side-dress our reblooming irises each spring with a low nitrogen fertilizer such as an 8-32-16. Also, since these irises are growing so fast, the number of rhizomes is also increasing in direct proportion. So the clumps must be split about every second year.

Winter rot is another problem faced by the "Severe Weather" reblooming iris grower. After hard freezes have stopped growth for the year, the irisarian must examine each mature rhizome to see whether or not it started to send up a

bloomstalk which got nipped by the freeze. If it did, that bloomstalk *must* be cut out, or it will rot and cause loss of the plant. In spring clean-up, each plant must be checked for signs of rot. Usually, this can be cleaned up by using the tetracycline hydrochloride method described by Jim Browne of Memphis, TN in the October, 1981 AIS Bulletin.

As can be readily seen, growing reblooming irises is not for the person who wants to plant them and forget them, but a growing group of irisarians are finding the added effort rewarding and worthwhile.

A small geographical difference will make a marked difference in what will rebloom in this area. Last year, a killing freeze with temperatures in the 20's finished rebloom in Omaha on October 13. Dr. Garland Bare reported rebloom on November 22 in Lincoln, Nebraska. They are only about 60 miles southwest of Omaha. Many of Dr. John Weiler's dwarfs will rebloom in Lincoln. I have only rebloomed WILLOW MIST in Omaha. Ms. Sally Bergei, who lives about a mile south of me and on higher ground, reports dependable rebloom on RAVENWOOD and CERTAINLY-CERTAINLY. I get rebloom about every third or fourth year on these irises. Dr. Lynn Stoll in Atalissa, IA, reports dependable rebloom on CHERRY SUPREME and FEEDBACK. I have never had rebloom on either of them, but Garland says that FEEDBACK is dependable in Lincoln. Lynn says that NOW AND LATER has never rebloomed for her, but it is very dependable for me and for Tim Stanek, Director of the Sass Memorial Garden.

Certain irises are, by general consensus, fairly dependable in Region 21. These are Earl Hall's QUEEN DOROTHY, PINK ATTRACTION, and VIOLET RETURNS; Karl Jensen's BELVI QUEEN and BELVI CLOUD; Frank Jones' AUTUMN BUGLER, GRAPE ADVENTURE, AUTUMN MISTS, LADY EMMA, and GOLDEN ENCORE; Dave Niswonger's LATE LILAC; R. G. Smith's BROWN DUET, FALL MAJESTY, RETURNING GLORY, and RE-TREAT; and Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg's irises DA CAPO, I DO, CROSS STITCH, IMMORTALITY, GRACE THOMAS, NOW AND LATER, and JEAN GUYMER.

BELVI CLOUD, PINK ATTRACTION, and VIOLET RETURNS are newer irises which were included in proven rebloomers because they were guested in Region 21 as seedlings and have proven dependable. Many of the newer rebloomers are currently being grown, and many of them rebloomed last year. Our growing season last fall was not typical, so these newer irises have not been included, even though they did bloom.

From the Editor

ARTICLES NEEDED: A constant need for articles for the Bulletin exists. Growing tips, favorite irises, great performers, how irises affect your life—anything could be an article. Please fill my mailbox.

DEADLINES: If you send an article and it doesn't appear promptly, check the deadlines. Something that arrives in April may have arrived too late for the July issue.

ROBINS: Robin directors, please send excerpts from your robin letters to the Flight Lines Editor: Sam Reece, 633 Kindred, Richardson, Texas 75080

Kansas Bloom in Early Spring

Jim Fry (Kansas)

Some clumps with a few scattered open blooms, many clumps with buds bulging and showing color, the weather forecast is freezing rain mixed with snow and the temperature expected to drop overnight to mid or low 20's! This normally means disaster as far as iris bloom season is concerned except for the rugged Miniature Dwarf Bearded iris. This year we have had warm weather interspersed with hard freezes three times since February. Several minor freezes with the temperature dropping only to the 28-30 degree range have also been experienced. In spite of all the lousy weather, our MDBs started blooming on March 17 with ATROVIOLACEA and WILD BABY. BUZZ BEE followed in a couple of days as did several seedlings. That last hard freeze, after freezing rain and sleet had covered everything, made the rock garden look awful. Temperature went down to 17 degrees F. and all the flowers collapsed. Two days later, ATROVIOLACEA started blooming again. WILD BABY struggled because the clump was quite small, and there were very few buds coming. BUZZ BEE snapped right back and looked its usual pert self. It is a bright light yellow with a prominent brown spot sporting a white beard. One row of seedlings about four feet long has been a solid mass of bloom since before the last freeze, so they have been blooming for about three weeks. There are none in the group that should be introduced, but that vigor and weather resistance will be saved and used in breeding. EARLY BABY normally is the first or second to bloom, but this year it lagged by almost a week. Its fragrance was not harmed by the weather, and even I can detect it from six feet away. MINI MINX with its heart shaped red-brown spot on a full yellow flower was another early bloomer.

These were followed closely by BUMBLE WINGS, FRENCH WINE, BLUE CAPERS and MITTENS, a cream with a brown spot. All of these did not bloom as profusely as usual. There were aborted blooms that never did completely develop because of freeze damage. However, the flowers that did open were very good on all of them. The cool damp weather has helped intensify the color and patterns on all the dwarfs that have bloomed thus far. In most cases the contrast in the patterns is much more prominent than usual. Markings around the beards, on the shoulders and hafts, as well as on the style arms are more noticeable than usual. It remains to be seen whether there will be evidence on the photographs that have been taken this spring. Really checking the subtleties of color and pattern in the spring means that I have perpetually dirty knees and muddy feet.

The next group to bloom included BEE EARLY, canary yellow with a brown rayed spot on the falls; SNUGGLES, light blue with a full blue violet spot and pale blue beard; DARING EYES, an outstanding white with a large full blue spot and almost white beard. All three relatively new dwarfs from Lynda Miller display very nice flowers. BEE EARLY and DARING EYES had excellent proportion but SNUGGLES was a bit larger flower than we prefer. However, it bloomed on a first year clump and may have been adversely affected by the

weather. Final judgment must wait until next year. ALPINE LAKE has opened only one flower so far (there are more buds on the clump) but it held up for four days. The light blue falls below white-with-a-blue-cast standards on a well proportioned flower showed why it earned the Caparne-Welch Medal. This week we have averaged over 70 varieties in bloom every day. Most of these have pumila background so they are not very tender. However, fewer than half of the MDBs in the garden have bloomed so far. We have checked by feeling the fans close to the rhizomes, and some will probably not bloom this year.

We have several really small miniatures and three dark ones were especially noted this year. BINK was not a well established clump, so part of it sustained freeze damage, but it still did quite well. It is a dark blue violet with a darker spot on the falls. The flower is about 3.5 inches tall and the foliage is in proportion. WEE DOZEY is a full blue violet with a yellow beard tipped pale blue. It seldom grows over four inches in height. VOODOO NIGHT is a red black self about 3.5 inches high. So far we have not been able to get it to increase sufficiently to introduce it, but it has a prominent place in the garden, and it gets its fair share of attention.

Some of the older ones that have bloomed this year so far and still hold their own are MAROCAIN, OLBIENSIS, APRIL VAR, BEE WINGS, BLUE BERET, GRANDMA'S HAT, ORCHID FLAIR, and FLIRTY EYES. The latter is almost hidden between two clumps of creeping phlox but it must love its seclusion. It has never looked better. The full blue spot at the tip of the beard really contrasts with the white flower. RED PIXIE and GREEN PIXIE opened the same day and look great for dwarfs that were introduced over 20 years ago. Three green ones opened today and all are different but very showy garden flowers. IRISH DOLL is well proportioned with white standards and light yellow green falls. APRIL FLIRT has pale ivory standards and dark olive green (brown) falls with an ivory rim. LITTLE GREEN EYES is white with a green rayed spot on the falls, and it is a little darling. Two variegatas also opened today. VARI-BRIGHT has deep yellow standards and dark brown falls with a wide deep yellow rim. ABLAZE is appropriately named the way it stands out with full yellow standards and reddish brown falls that have a yellow border and an orange beard.

Every morning brings on more new and exciting small ones bursting into color. It is a real joy to walk out and browse through the rock garden hunting for the new blooms. Yes, the air is cool, even cold at times. But the miniatures blooming among the creeping phlox, small narcissus and tulips make the coming of Spring seem real. Later in the day another tour around the garden is necessary to see if more buds are unfurling and then back inside to get the camera again for more pictures. In our spare time we even try to get in some pollen collecting and making a few crosses. Of course, there is a fair amount of muttering because the ones we really want to use have absolutely no pollen. However, every flower must be checked because sometimes there will be one anther with some viable pollen. With so many beautiful ones on the early MDBs, we are anxiously awaiting the bloom on the second half of our collection in the rock garden.

Do We Really Understand the Awards System?

Ronald Mullin (Oklahoma)

Few subjects, other than the weather, cause as much discussion among AIS members as the awards system. This is especially true of the selection process for the Dykes Medal. In an article in the October, 1989, BULLETIN, Ethel Baukus mentions a discussion of a proposed idea for selecting the Dykes Medal winner. In recent months I've received numerous letters in which the writer either thinks it is a calamity that we had no Dykes winner in 1989 or feels that if an iris isn't good enough across the country to earn 15% of the votes cast that it is best that we not have a winner.

It soon becomes evident that there are as many proposals for change as there are discussions. The current system has served us well, and changes have been made from time to time. It still seems to work well, and until it fails consistently, it would appear that it needs no major overhaul.

The selection of award winners is dependent on several things. The work of the judges is, and always will be, the most important part of the selections. Judges who make it their responsibility to see as many irises as possible will usually have little trouble in marking a ballot. This requires time, money, and energy, but when one becomes a judge he is made aware of these things. One cannot expect to participate fully if he does not grow irises which are eligible for awards. A judge who does not grow irises must expect to spend numerous hours of many days in the garden of someone who does grow newer irises.

Perhaps new members are being rushed into the judges' program too quickly. So often a new member joins with enthusiasm but very few irises, and no newer ones. Sometimes, because of the enthusiasm for irises, this new member is urged to become a judge. He can't resist the urging, and soon he is a judge with very few eligible irises in his garden. Maybe the actions of well-meaning irisarians have put this new member in a selection process too quickly. Becoming a judge is not a reward for being young, enthusiastic, wealthy, nice, or any other descriptive adjective; it is acceptance of a job. The job requires dedication and plenty of work. It requires enough knowledge about how to select a good garden iris to make the judge an asset to the awards system.

What of the judge who no longer is active in touring gardens? Do these people really know enough about the quality of a great number of new irises to be casting a ballot? In many cases, the newcomer knows more about what is good than the old timer who is no longer growing irises or visiting gardens. How are these people voting? Do they vote on the basis of what they've seen at a show, what they have read about, or what someone told them was good? If any of these are fact, then that judge is hurting the awards system by voting a ballot for the Dykes medal. Repeated efforts to make changes in the eligibility of judges to vote usually meet with rejection on some front. If the awards

system is going to be affected adversely, then it is time to limit the number of judges who can participate in active voting of the ballot. The RVPs have presented some proposals along this line, and a change has been made.

When the 1987 voting failed to produce a Dykes Medal winner and gave only three AM winners in the tall Bearded class, the uproar began. Several factors contributed to that phenomenon, in my opinion. Perhaps some of those same reasons were involved in the lack of a Dykes winner in 1989. Perhaps it was just a carry over from the voting of that year. And, though we don't like to think about it, maybe the irises on the eligibility list just do not perform well in all parts of the country to an extent that any of them could get the necessary votes.

Distribution is a major key in the selection process. Wide distribution produces votes in larger numbers. Most of us can name an iris or two that never won a major award but out-performs the winners in nearly every section of the country. If judges in many regions grow an iris, the more times it is likely to be seen by visiting judges. However, we don't want our award winners to be limited to the irises which are widely grown soon after introduction.

A few years ago the introductory price of tall bearded irises went from \$25 to \$30 or even \$35. I can only speak about the local buyers, but that price increase drastically cut the number of new irises to be seen in area gardens. When they aren't purchased by local growers the first year, they can't be evaluated by the judges. Many growers tend to buy only new things, so those that were missed the first year often don't ever get to the local gardens. The result: many irises are out of the running before they get started. If the iris isn't purchased the first year, then the conscientious judge certainly can't vote it an HM after the second year. Clarence Mahan's article in the January, 1990 BULLETIN gives an idea which might help in that area.

One cannot criticize the dealers for raising prices because they must profit to stay in business. If judges would return to the policies of a few years ago, the price change might have less of an effect. In those days several in an area ordered from different dealers then traded the increases thereby increasing the number of new varieties to be seen in the area. Have we reached the point where the ordering of new irises has been reduced to the point that too few irises are seen in some regions? Are we so anxious to have more new things than anyone else that this sharing plan is no longer acceptable?

Conventions are noted for producing votes for irises. While voting should not be based on seeing an iris at a convention, it may be becoming more common. When the judges don't see irises at home, they feel obligated to vote, so the irises seen at a convention get the votes. No judge can truly evaluate an iris in the short time it is seen in a convention setting. With one group voting on convention performance, another group voting on West Coast performance, another on East Coast performance, etc., we soon have such a split in voting that no winners are forthcoming. Evidence of convention voting can be seen easily. Check the reports from a convention, then check the awards list. Most people have never seen the irises at a convention before, yet those irises will surge to the top in voting.

Certainly, some irises which perform well at a convention are deserving, but sometimes, they aren't. Look at former convention winners and see how many quickly become lost in the shuffle. Conditions at a convention, the number of irises in bloom, and the season are just a few of the things that determine what wins at a convention. This can have an effect on the awards later which is more detrimental than the original problem. If a group of irises performs well at a certain convention and they dominate the HM balloting, then they make up the eligibility list for the AM winners two years later and the Dykes four years later. Unfortunately, if those convention wonders turn out to be poor performers in the home gardens across America, judges are suddenly left with no choice that they consider worthy of the award.

Sometimes the weather can create havoc in parts of the country. The year 1987 brought the worst possible weather for iris growers in many states. A very late, very hard freeze totally destroyed the bloom. Those who don't live in states where the temperature varies up and down in such extremes do not understand what this means in the garden. States such as Oklahoma are NOT cold all winter. Often the irises will begin growing in January. Many times they will grow into December before being killed down by cold. Even though January and February may be warm and start new growth on the irises, that doesn't mean that March won't kill the blooms. When these blooms don't appear or appear in such distorted form that the judge has difficulty telling anything about the iris, then the voting numbers will drop drastically. No conscientious judge could vote a full ballot in 1987 if he lived in Oklahoma and many surrounding states. Dykes eligibles didn't bloom, new things didn't bloom; AM eligibles (often seen only once before) didn't bloom. Under these conditions, the judges are to be commended for NOT voting. Awards should be based on performance over a two-year period, so the judges were showing their training. It would have been wrong to select a winner after having seen it only once and thus thrusting what turned out to be a "loser" on the buying public because it was branded an "award winner."

Some have suggested that the eligibility list is too long and they have suggested a qualifying medal for every class. This would reduce the number on the ballot, but these qualifying medals are presented by the sections themselves, not AIS. The sections present the idea for special medal status to the AIS. If a sufficient number of irises is introduced in a specific class, medal status is granted. Those who belong to the sections do not see this as forcing their favorites to go through an additional step, as some have indicated in their complaints about the awards. It is added prestige for the winning iris.

Why shouldn't the Dykes list be limited to the special medal winners? It isn't possible because some classes have too few introductions to warrant a medal, so they would be eliminated. And, what about the very popular tall bearded irises? Since sections award the special medals, the tall bearded irises would be eliminated. No tall bearded section exists, so they get no special medal.

So long as the majority of AIS members prefer the tall bearded irises, limiting the eligibles to only one per class would probably result in the one tall

bearded eligible becoming the Dykes Medal winner each year.

Since I am in a position to hear from people in all parts of the AIS, I have noted a tendency in recent years for those people in the sections to vote for the irises from the class they prefer. All of us must remember that we are to vote for the very best iris, regardless of class. It is not "cute" for an iris other than a tall bearded to win the Dykes. If the iris is worthy, then it should get the award. If it gets the votes ONLY because it is from some class other than tall bearded, then we have lost sight of our reason for voting.

Many people favor a supplementary ballot when no iris wins 15% of the Dykes vote. Many others feel that this gives the award to an iris that didn't perform well enough across the country to be deserving. Some irises have won the coveted Dykes Medal in run-off elections in the past. Two of those winners do not, have not, and probably will not perform in my garden or in the garden of most of my iris friends. That is not to say that some of the other winners are any better, but wouldn't it be nice if we could always point to our Dykes winner as a great performer?

For the time being, I am in the camp that says we should not have a run off ballot. Should we consistently fail to have a winner, I probably would be in the lead to push for a change in the rules. I feel strongly that our top winners—AM and Dykes winners—should perform well under normal weather conditions.

To me, our problem is not the lack of a Dykes Medal winner but the superior irises that never get an HM because they don't get the distribution or recognition they deserve. This can be corrected by dedicated judges who visit hybridizers' gardens and report on quality irises seen. Award winners should not be restricted to irises from big commercial gardens. How many of our judges will run across the country to look at irises but fail to visit the hybridizer who lives down the street? Many quality irises are produced by these local hybridizers, and they deserve more recognition than they get. Without any effort I can think of several hybridizers who produce superior irises with great growth habits, extremely good branching, and many buds, but they never even get an HM. Some of my best friends are owners of big commercial gardens, and I think they produce quality irises, but they aren't the only ones who do. Judges, visit those other hybridizers too!

The AIS Awards system is fine. We, as judges, can probably do better. The system is not to blame, but many things affect the results of balloting. We can't do anything about what the weather does, but we can correct everything else. Join together to get as many different new irises in your area as possible, then see all of them often. Irises which deserve our awards are available. It's up to us to be active enough to find them and vote for them. Our hybridizers deserve our best efforts. They produce fine plants for our gardens, share them with us as generously as they can, and they deserve to be given awards if the irises merit them. Let's give our best efforts and see if we can't evaluate enough irises each year to produce the award winners we all enjoy growing, talking about, and sharing with others.

BARB'S IRIS DELIGHTS

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1990 Introductions

JAZZ STAR (T. A. Wight, R. '89) BB, 20, E & RE. S. ruffled old gold, white throat and maroon line down center. F. white ground, dotted and lined maroon, edged brown. Gold beards tipped maroon. Good flower, form, substance and branching, strong stalk, showing off six flowers **\$20.00**

SPACE SHUTTLE CHARMER (B. J. Wight, R. '89) TB, E-M. S. rosy tan (RHS 18D). F. light brown (163C), yellow orange beards. Ruffled, slight fragrance, good branching, substance and form with six unique flowers **\$25.00**

LEMON LOVE (B. J. Wight, R. '90) TB, 28", E. Light lemon self, lightly ruffled and laced, light lemon beards. Good substance and branching, showing 6-7 flowers, very fragrant. Semi-flaring, good substance and branching, gorgeous flowers! **\$25.00**

1989 Introductions

ORANGE LACED GOWN—TB, Early. Buff orange self, ruffled and laced. Good substance and fragrant. Well branched, showing off six flowers **\$20.00**

PURPLE WARRIOR—TB, E-M. Velvety violet self. Wide beards tipped purple. Lightly ruffled, 5 or 6 flowers, slight fragrance **\$20.00**

IRISH FROLIC—SDB, Mid. Icy green self, light mustard beards. Good substance, spicy fragrance **\$10.00**

1983 to 1986 TB Introductions

SPACE SHUTTLE HONEY—E-M. Light honey tan self, yellow beards and hairy horns. Slight fragrance, good branching, flower form and substance with 6 blooms **\$7.00**

FANCY SPOONS—E-M. Bicolored plicata, double beards, long horns with spoons, sweet fragrance, 5 blooms on good branching **\$6.00**

PEACH EVERGLOW—E & RE. Peach self, slightly ruffled, good substance and branching, fragrant, 5 or 6 blooms **\$7.00**

CHARMING ROSÉ—E. Ruffled and laced rose self with 6 or 7 blooms, tangerine beards. Good branching and substance, sweet fragrance **\$5.00**

LEMON AND HONEY—E-M. Lemon laced S. and white falls with brown plicata markings. Fragrant, good substance, 5 blooms per stalk **\$5.00**

LEMON EVERGLOW—E. Lemon self. Large flowers, good substance and branching. Lemony fragrance, 5-6 blooms per stalk **\$5.00**

LI'L PINK GEISHA—E-M. Dark pink self, saturn red beards. Slight fragrance, good substance and stalks, 5-6 blooms **\$5.00**

SNOW CANYON—M. White self tinted blue green at hafts, yellow beards tipped white. Good substance and branching **\$5.00**

SALMON MAGIC—E-M. Salmon self, darker at styles, hafts and lines down falls. Saturn red beards. Slight fragrance, good substance, 6-7 blooms **\$5.00**

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Previous Introductions:

LAVENDER QUEEN (86)—TB, 40", ML (Space-Age). Regal light lavender, tangerine heart and beard; well-formed, with ruffling, light lace and consistent long spoons **\$12.00**

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JA WOHL—SDB, 10", E-L. White self; yellow beards tipped white; slight fragrance; floriferous **\$10.00**

Previous Introductions

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ERICA REYES	SDB	1989	\$ 8.00

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OKIE IRIS GARDENS

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REGION 1, AIS FALL MEETING

October 5 and 6, 1990, Region 1 will hold its fall meeting at the Lord Wakefield, Wakefield, Massachusetts.

Jean Witt will be our guest speaker for the weekend. Friday night October 5 at 8 pm Jean will give a Species Judges' Training. Saturday's Program will be a talk on Species Iris in the Garden.

No registration fee. Saturday luncheon cost is \$13.00/person. Send reservations to Marty Schafer (checks made out to Region 1, AIS), 45 Elm Street, Bedford, MA 01730 (617-275-7723) by SEPTEMBER 15.

Rooms: \$60 + tax (1-4 persons) or \$55 + tax for seniors (65 +). Make reservations directly with the hotel—Lord Wakefield, 595 North Avenue, Wakefield, MA 01880, 617-245-6100. Reserve by AUGUST 1st for a guaranteed room.

Come join us for this special weekend and enjoy our fall foliage.

REQUEST FOR SIBERIAN GUEST IRISES FOR 1993

We are ready to accept guest Siberian Irises for our first Siberian Convention to be held in Michigan in June, 1993. It will be headquartered in East Lansing and will feature a master planting and an additional four gardens. Because Siberians transplant more successfully when they are kept moist, we plan to handle the guest plants by the following method.

1. Before any shipments are sent, those hybridizers wishing to send official guest plants should notify the 1993 Guest Iris Chairpersons:

Jill and Susan Copeland
34165 CR. 652
Mattawan, MI 49071

2. Notification should be sent before July 31, 1990 and include:
Name or seedling number of cultivars to be guested.
Number of starts of each cultivar.

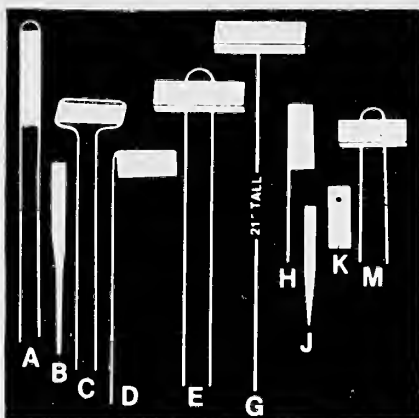
3. The Guest Iris Chairs will then notify each hybridizer of where to send the guests. When multiple starts of a cultivar are to be sent, hybridizers will be given the address of several gardens in order to maximize the chances of good bloom for the convention.

With this direct mailing system, we hope to minimize any losses and get the irises off to a good start.

4. Guests will be accepted from August 1 to September 15.
5. Hybridizers from abroad will be notified of one address only for shipping irises in order to minimize the cost of phytosanitary certificates and avoid prohibitive mailing costs.

The convention committee and the owners of the tour gardens will follow the statement of the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

Official guest status will only apply to those plants which are mailed to the tour gardens by the above procedure and the hybridizer sends the required plant information to the Guest Iris Chairpersons.



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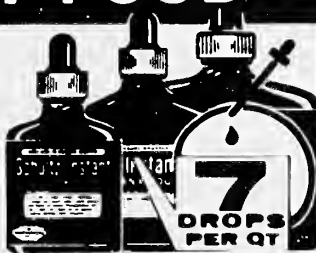
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American Iris Society Conventions

1991	Washington, DC	May 18-22
1992	Atlanta, GA	April 28-May 2
1993	Fort Worth, TX	April 25-30
1994	Portland, OR	
1995	Hershey, PA	
1996	Sacramento, CA	

California Bloom 1990

Carol E. Jarratt (California)

Here in my Scotts Valley garden in Santa Cruz County, the 1990 iris bloom season began about ten days early. Impatient as I was for the "show" to begin, I could not have been happier. On March 23, Wine Master opened a picture perfect flower and the next day Coming Attraction opened. The flower explosion was launched. Every morning, with camera at ready, I was out in the garden recording the best early bloom ever.

Here are some of the varieties which bloomed in my garden and impressed me the most for various reasons:

1. Long bloom period: Coming Attraction, soft blue, Gaultier '87, is still in bloom with buds to come and it is now May 10! Sunny and Warm, light yellow standards, sunny yellow falls, Gatty '87. This cheerful flower first opened April 2 and is still blooming. Magicians Apprentice, a smooth dark iridescent black that is very well branched, Maryott '89, bloomed from March 29 until May 2. I took a picture of a top bloom and several days later, we had a heat wave followed by drippy fog. The next day I took a picture of the same flower. When the slides were developed the second shot of the flower looked just as good as the first. There were six bloom stalks yet it has grown seven new increases. I am very impressed with Magician's Apprentice. There was Inagural Ball, a metallic red-purple with blue beards, super branching and bud count by Ghio '88. Another '88 Ghio iris and a rebloomer too, Ocean Pacific, is a bright clean mid-blue with the now famous bubble ruffling. Winemaster, a most beautiful ruffled smooth wine red, Keppel '86, was the first to bloom and is still in bloom with plenty of increase for next year. These are a few of the super performers that have impressed me this spring.

2. Other favorite irises: Several of Joe Gatty's top my list. I love a good variegata and Smart Aleck '88 is a bright delight. The yellow standards top velvety dark violet red falls and the buds open endlessly. Lovely Glow '87 is just that in apricot with fine form. Royal Elegance '88 is a big wide ruffled periwinkle blue and is a show stopper. I highly recommend it. Keith Keppel's family of blue and white plicatas, Snow Brook '87, Armada '88, and Daredevil '88, are so beautiful and all bloomed for such a long time. Lemon Fever, Maryott '88, has clear and sharp color, rich lemon standards and white falls banded lemon and lemon orange beards. This is a standout in the garden. Joe Ghio's Romantic Mood '88, pink standards, white falls edged pink with great substance and bubble ruffling; Indiscreet '88 brilliant large magenta plicata and Olympiad '84, a blue white with deeper blue in the center of all petals are all absolutely just wonderful irises. Schreiners' Honky Tonk Blues '88 is a darker blue brushed over a lighter blue ground producing a wondrous effect. Everyone should try this one and Sweet Musette '86, a lightly ruffled lavender pink over smooth rose. I just love this iris. I cannot have enough good pinks in the garden. Hager's Mother Earth '88, with oyster cream standards

and deep lavender falls is so big and beautiful! Fanfaron '88 is a gold with brown overlay on the falls and it brightens the garden. Spring Image '88 is a laced orchid with white beards and it is delightful, and Inner Vision is a ruffled and lacy blue with white that loves to bloom on and on. Weiler's Jolt '88 is a fiery orange and yellow knockout that doesn't know when to stop. It produces multiple bloomstalks with a ditto for flowers and increase. I could go on and on about my favorites, but I had better get on to category 3.

3. Great '89 introductions in my garden: Revolution by Anfosso is a large bicolor with pale blue standards and medium dark violet blue falls with orange red beards and nice stalks. It was an instant hit here and also in all other gardens I visited. Bubble Up by Ghio is a wondrous frothy ruffled salmon pink beauty with that ultimate Ghio form. I was absolutely overwhelmed when I saw the first bloom. It is tall, well branched, and well budded. Guadalajara by Ghio is a tall, super branched and budded large flowered deep orange to burnt orange. Raspberry Fudge by Keppel has a light yellow apricot ground with raspberry plicata margins and darker brown raspberry hafts on a round and ruffled form—striking! Mystic Warrior by Bob Dunn has plum standards and blue violet falls banded plum. The color fits the name and it was a hit with all. I liked Dunn's Verivogue also. It is a large, tall greenish ivory cream. Florida Orange by Keppel is a bright golden orange with red beards that demands attention. Weiler's border bearded Frizzy Lizzy is a crinkle ruffled orange that also cannot be ignored. Both of these oranges showed excellent branching. Indian Capers, O. Brown, is a strikingly shiny brilliant bronze. Hager's Magic World is a large beautifully branched amethyst violet self with a yellow beard. Alluring by Lilly Gartman is a large elegant pale coral with heavy substance. Classico '84, a cream darkening to yellow at petal edges, one of Lilly's earlier introductions and a favorite of mine, won Queen of the Show for me at the Monterey Bay Iris Society Show. I am looking forward to growing Lilly's 1990 introductions Status Seeker, a deep coral, and Heavenly Halo, an ivory cream banded pale yellow.

4. Touring the hybridizer's gardens, more irises I liked, their 1990 introductions, and future wonders to be: In Joe Ghio's garden in Santa Cruz, I saw a whole row of his early blooming Storyline and loved it. This is a lilting ruffled non-fading flower of apricot ground with domed standards that are rose washed and falls sanded and dotted rose at petal edges with a tangerine beard. The oranges were outstanding. Between Bogota's early blooming deep orange with red cast through the heart of the bloom and Santiago's deep burnt red-orange with a waxen-like patina, these wonderful oranges provide bloom all season long. I liked Purgatory, Moores '87. This is an orange brown and brown-red bitone with clear and strong color set off to great effect. I saw this at Keith Keppel's earlier and it was exceptional there also. I'm not a fan of browns, but this I just must have. Watch out next year for Joe's Notorious. This one is guaranteed to knock your socks off. Imagine pink standards and raspberry magenta falls with a big sunburst in the falls. The form is overall slightly ruffled. It won best seedling at the Monterey Bay Iris Show. While you

are trying to recover from this one, enjoy Honeymoon Suite, also for '91, a frothy ruffled confection with pastel lavender standards and pink lavender falls that is my kind of flower. It grows like a weed, too. Mary Dunn's Patterns is indeed nice. It is a big, tall, marbled violet blue and white. Keith Keppel's Opportunity is an exceptionally clear yellow, a beautiful large, ruffled flower. Keith's Blue Ballet is perfection in form and pattern. The standards are ruffled ice blue, the heavily ruffled white centered falls have a wide border of solid dark lavender which in turn has a paler outer edge. I liked Cheerful One by Hamner '89, a medium yellow with narrow white edges. We all liked this aptly named iris. I first saw it in Keith's garden in Stockton and it was well liked there also. Hamner's '88 Flamence Whirl caught my eye. This nicely ruffled bright gold with red gold falls is an eye catcher. So is Schreiners' '89 New Direction, a floriferous orange-apricot bicolor. Then, there is Perils of Pauline by Mohr '89, a laced soft blue-orchid that is so lovely. I cannot pass up a pretty pink, so I shall have to add Pink Ballerina, Rudolph '83, a nicely formed pink self and Dance Music, Mohr '88, a full pink self with rose shadings to my collection.

In the Keppel Garden in Stockton, I wandered for hours looking at all the introduced varieties and the vast number of seedlings. Joe Gatty's '90 Designing Woman really does have a color co-ordinated outfit of rosy lavender. The falls pale to a pearly lavender lilac, laced and deeply waved standards with round strongly flared falls complete the outfit. The branching is excellent, the growth vigorous. Fantastic! Keith has a pink seedling #85-10A that I like and hope to see introduced. Another is an apricot pink #84-175A that he will introduce that is so "very good." I cannot wait to grow it. And then, there is Joe Gatty's Christmas for '91. A wonderful great big, very ruffled snow white. Keith has some advanced versions of the Snowbrook line that I call Super Snowbrooks coming in the future. Some of Joe Gatty's seedlings that I liked very much are All Together, #S-21, a yellow with a full, wide fall, #S-22-2 a reverse blue amoena, #Q-10-1, a very clean variegata, and #P-41-1A Floral Chiffon, a pink. I do hope these will be introduced.

Melrose Gardens, also in Stockton, required a bit of walking to take in all the rows. Ben Hager's 1990 introductions were all so impressive. Some that I cannot pass up are: Falling In Love, a medium pink with flame red beards; Caribee, a medium to lighter true blue; a ruffled and fluted rebloomer named Blue Anew that puts up many stalks with 12 buds each and one named Timescape, a laced and ruffled lavender with horizontal flaring, a child of Olympiad that waved at me harder than all the rest. It was not listed in the catalog, but may be introduced in the July AIS BULLETIN. Davy Jones is truly the deepest dark violet and has the widest wide petals I have ever seen. Most impressive! The bonus selection irises are all absolutely tops though I found myself partial to the white rebloomer Bonus Mama and the orange called Gratuity. The light purple, Inducement, is also very nice. I have it from last year. There was a whole section of new reblooming varieties with modern form. Manley Osborne's Classy Chassy is a very pretty cool blue white with fluttery ruffled edges, flaring falls and the most impressive thick deep blue beards that form into pointed short horns at the tips. The effect of these beards is

intense. I am looking forward to growing this iris. Good Guy, a very wide ruffled and fluted white with white beards was one of Ben's '89 introductions that is exceptionally nice, and I must get it.

Bill Maryott's garden in San Jose was in peak bloom when I visited and there certainly was a crowd there enjoying it all. In the area of new introductions the first one to catch my eye was Almaden, a smooth dark red maroon with dark red beards. It has nice stalks and plenty of buds. It is sunfast and free of haft markings. Lucky Lemon, a yellow amoena pattern continues Bill's quest for a better yellow amoena. The standards are nearly pure white and the ruffled falls are medium yellow with a fine wire rim of white. The flower form is excellent, bud count and branching are good. Orange Flirt is a bright well formed deep red orange similar to Oktoberfest and it also has fine branching, bud count and vigor. Juan Valdez is a great name for the improved version of San Jose for 1991. These big, honey yellow-brown toned flowers are most appealing. The stalks are tall, wide branched, and the plants are vigorous growers. Birthday Surprise is another iris for 1991. It is an orange ground plicata with maroon markings. It has a big flower on stalks with nice branching. Court Martial is a Ghio iris that Bill will introduce in 1991. It is a deep maroon on the order of Marauder with yellow beards. These big flowers are on tall stalks with excellent branching, many buds and it's a vigorous grower.

This is a great year of iris introductions, and 1991 will be a year to look forward to. An iris enthusiast I am indeed! One of my biggest problems is deciding which iris to pass on in order to make room for the new ones. The total must be kept under 350. Now you all know who some of those new ones will be.

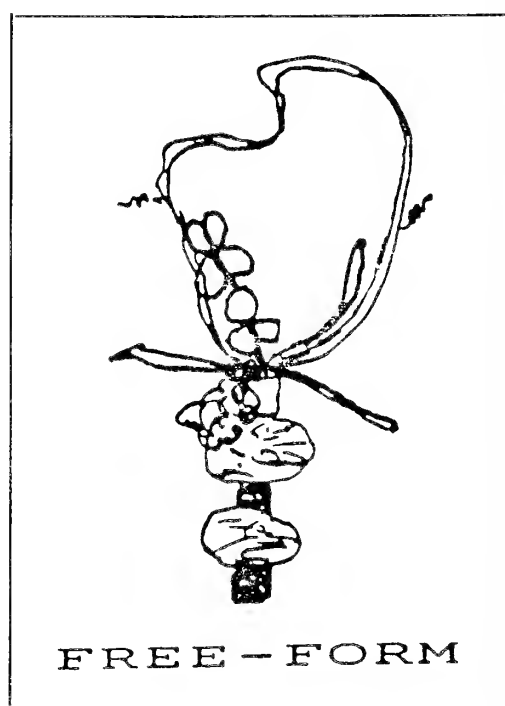
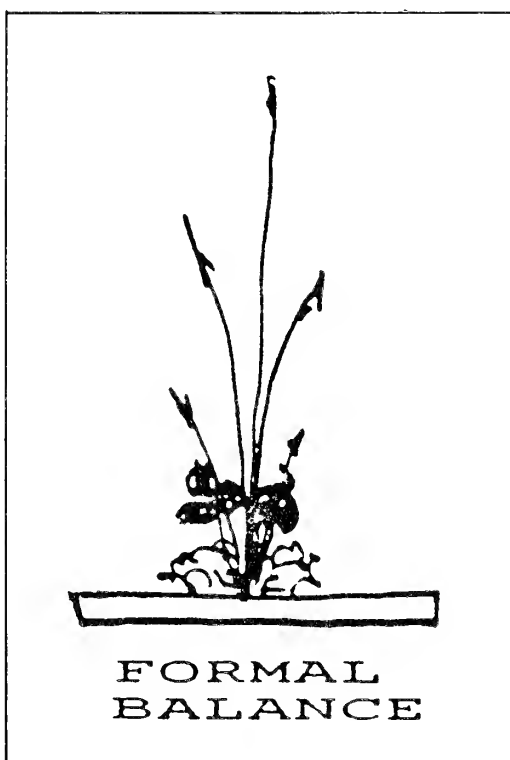
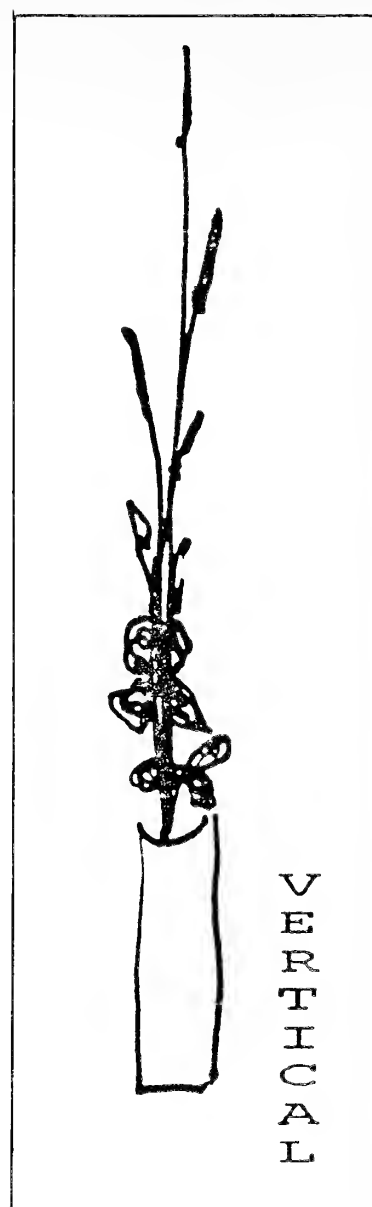
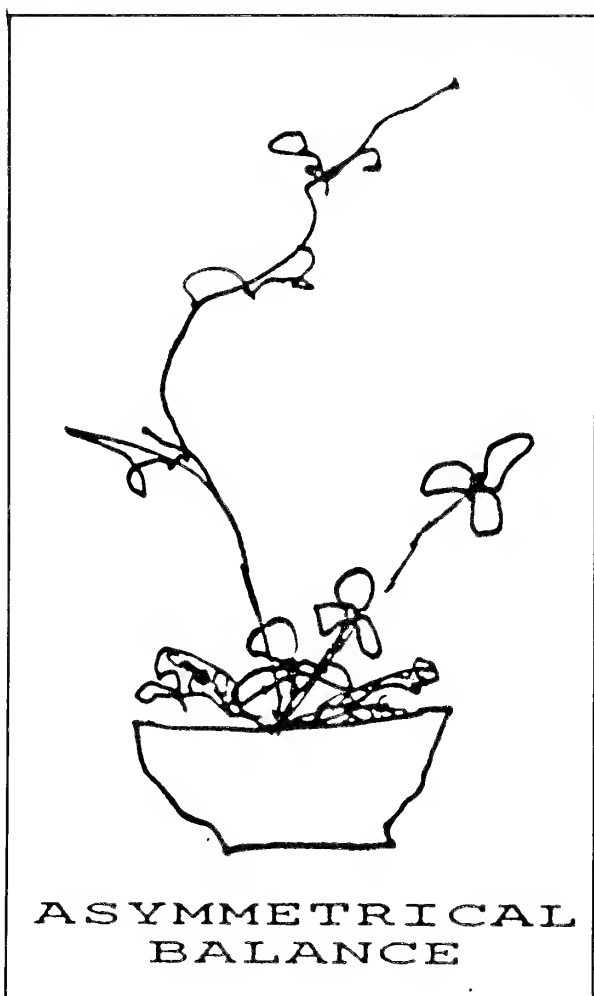
Floral Design with Siberian Irises

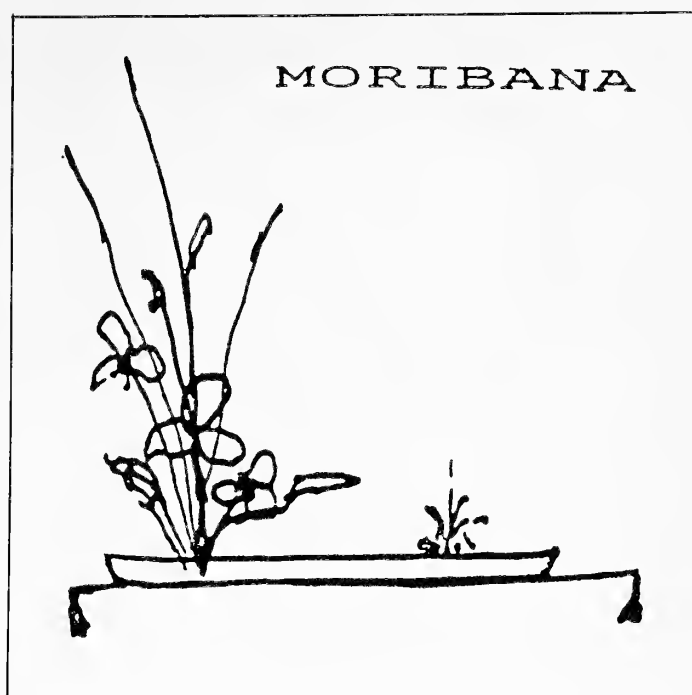
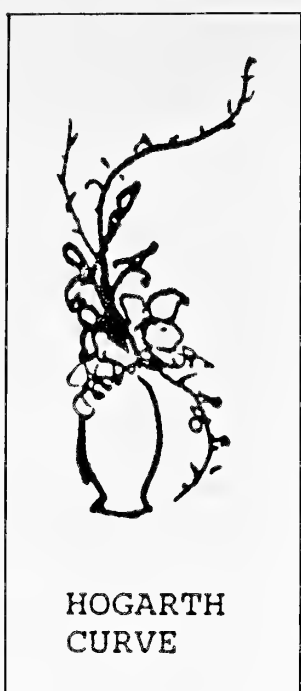
Anna Mae Miller (Michigan)

Flower arranging is the art of organizing the elements of space, line, form, pattern, repetition and texture according to the principles of design (balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, scale and rhythm) to create beauty, simplicity and unity. To bring order out of chaos.

Before arranging flowers we must consider several things: the place the arrangement will occupy (size of this area and shape of the space to be filled): the background (its color, possible distractions): the proportion and scale of the flowers to be used: line material (branches, stems, leaves, etc.), and the container.

Since Siberian irises are small flowers with long sleek stems, a more delicate container is chosen than when arranging the larger tall bearded irises. Line material could be Siberian leaves, cattails and their foliage, delicate branches such as *Cotoneaster divaricatus*, wisteria, bayberry, flowering almond, or hemlock and other fine needled evergreens. Branches with large foliage may be used if many of the larger leaves are nipped off.



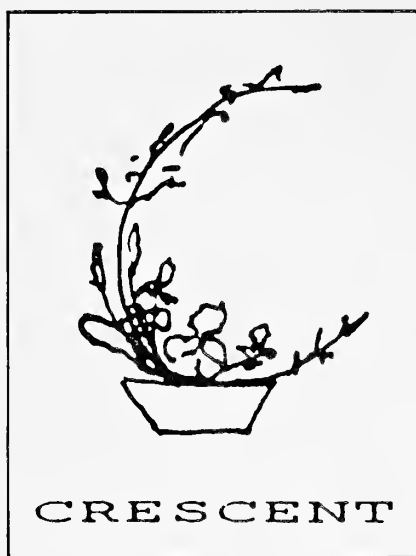


Oriental poppy seed heads make good line material and are very compatible with Siberian blossoms. Leaves that are used to fill in near the neck or base of the container would also be more delicate. *Baptisia* works well as do small rather than large-leafed hostas. Fern-leafed peony foliage is preferred over heavier peony leaves.

All plant materials must be cut and conditioned in warm water for several hours so that they do not wilt. Any plant that exudes a liquid must be burned or placed in boiling water for a couple of minutes before placing in water for several hours.

I enjoy a simple line arrangement when using Siberians, using a tall container or bottle where the blossoms stay within the line design chosen, broadening out a little at the neck (e.g. crescent, Hogarth curve, vertical, left or right triangle narrow at the base). Since their stems are usually rigid, if I use curved lines they are above the placement of the buds and open blossoms of the Siberians. Since the flowers are delicate, the line may be 2 1/2 to 3 times the height of the container and still be in pleasing proportion. Often for a tall container, I hold and arrange all the plant material in my hand and wrap with a twister or chenille wire, cut off the bottom evenly and place in the container (especially true in a glass container where the line in the container must be neat and not detracting). The container could be filled about three fourths full with yew cut one inch shorter than the container and this will hold the arrangement quite well; or use the Japanese method of a Y branch in the top of the container as a brace. If you choose to use a flat container it lends itself to a Japanese Moribana arrangement—a triangular arrangement with lots of water showing. A few stones placed around the kenzan (pinholder) is very effective.

In any floral design there must be good balance (stability) either symmetri-



cal or asymmetrical (Does it look like it will tip over?) There should be contrast in color texture, and form, but there must be dominance of one thing—usually the plant material rather than the container. Sometimes an accessory may be dominant if you are interpreting a theme. Rhythm is achieved through repetition in the organization of line placements, color and varying size relationships.

If you are successful you will have created, according to the principles of art a pleasing whole which has beauty and simplicity.

(Reprinted from *The Siberian Iris*, Spring, 1990)

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Membership in AIS sections is open to all AIS members. Payment may be made directly to the Section, or may be made payable to the American Iris Society and sent to AIS Membership Secretary, Marilyn Harlow, P.O. Box 8455, San Jose, CA 95155

How To Register and Introduce an Iris

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises *except bulbous irises*.

REGISTRATION

1. Write to the AIS Registrar Kay Nelson, P.O. Box 37613, Omaha, Nebraska 68137, for a registration blank, enclosing a check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. Registration fee is \$5.00 for each iris; for each transfer of a name from one iris to another the fee is \$7.50
2. Select a name that has not been previously registered, which may be submitted for approval when you write for the registration blank. You will save time for yourself and for the Registrar if you will first look in the AIS Check Lists and the annual reports of the Registrar since 1979 to see if the name you have chosen has been registered previously. Please also suggest an alternate name. The Registrar will hold an approved name for a short time to enable you to complete the blank and send it back to her, but *a name is not registered until the registration blank is filed and approved by the Registrar*. A registration certificate then will be sent to you.
3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Horticultural Code, and the following names shall not be admissible:
 - a. Names of living persons without the written permission of that person.
 - b. Names of persons including forms of address (that is, JANE DOE, not MRS. JANE DOE).
 - c. Names including numerals or symbols.
 - d. Names beginning with the article "a" and "the" or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
 - e. Abbreviations unless required by linguistic custom.
 - f. Latin names or Latinized forms. However, the AIS custom of using part of the Latin names of a species, namely the specific epithet, as part of the cultivar name when this seems appropriate (e.g. SUSIMAC, from *I. susiana* X IB-MAC), shall be continued.
 - g. Use of trademark or copyrighted names unless previously in common use.
 - h. A slight variation of a previously registered name.
 - i. Names containing more than three words.
 - j. Names that exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. HEAVIEST LACE, TALLEST BLACK).
4. Previously registered names may be re-used provided (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in later parentage registrations, and (c) the new registrant furnishes the Registrar with written statement of permission from the previous registrant.
5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof that no stock now exists and that the iris was never used as a parent.

INTRODUCTIONS

An introduction is an offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, and advertisements in the American Iris Society. *Bulletin* are acceptable mediums of introduction. It is a requisite for the awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. *An iris is not eligible for these awards until two years after its introduction has been recorded with the Registrar*. Send Ms. Nelson a copy of the catalog, list or advertisement and she will acknowledge the fact that the introduction has been recorded. (For irises introduced in the AIS BULLETIN, notify her of the BULLETIN number and page on which the introductory advertisement appears.)

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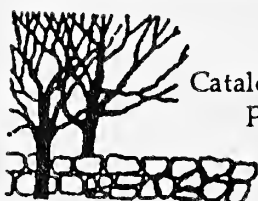
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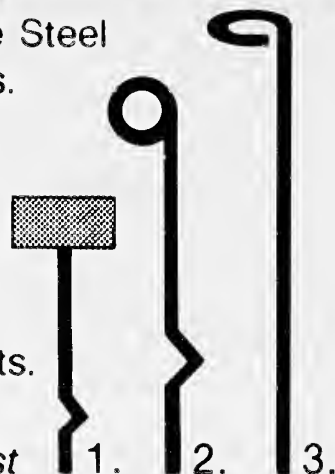
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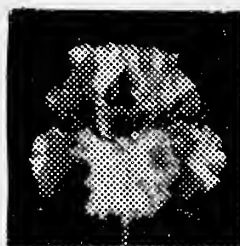
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Ms. Kay Nelson, Advertising Editor

P.O. Box 37613

Omaha, NE 68137

Advertisers This Issue

Shirley Burns Originals 34
Melrose Gardens 44, 45
Englerth Gardens 47
Barb's Iris Delights 64
Space Age Irises (Bartlett) .. 65
Okie Iris Gardens
(Thomason) 65
Region 1 65

Michigan Siberian
Convention 66
Paw Paw Everlast Labels 67
Schultz Company 67
Wild Wings Cover 2
Reblooming Iris
Society Cover 3
Klehm Nursery Cover 4

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Bulletin of the

American Iris Society

Number 279 October 1990



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A nonprofit institution incorporated Feb. 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the IRIS.

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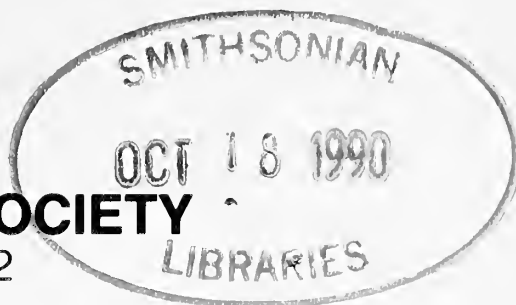
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OF THE
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

AIS AWARDS 1990	4
Go National in '91	Phil Ogilvie 17
Convention Awards	22
Prairie in Bloom	Ronald Mullin 23
Emerald Valley	Jean Erickson 24
The Iris Den	Bill Maryott 27
Observations of Early Arrival	Jane Hall 28
Omaha: A Youth View	Jerry Simmons 29
Sass Memorial Garden	Clarence Mahan 31
	Walter Moores 33
	Jim Browne 34
Varigay Gardens	James McWhirter 37
Wulf's Backachers	Barbara Schmieder 38
	Virginia Hodges 39
Boys' Town	David Miller 40
	Bill Rinehart 42
Bumblebee Gardens	Ethel Baukus 44
	Gary Sides 46
Maple Tree Gardens	Mrs. Walter Machulak 47
Schliefert	June Richards 52
Little By Little	Roger Mazur 53
Bumblebee Gardens	Vera Hummel 55
The Iris Den	Vera Hummel 56
Little By Little	Hooker Nichols 57
Attention All Youth	Jerry Simmons 62
An Iris Season in Review	Ted White 62
The Iris Versicolor Development Program	Dumas-Quesnal and Huber 70
Remontant Iris	Bob Maddern 72
Standard Dwarfs in Massachusetts	Lucy Burton 75
Tops These Last 20 Years	Stan Coates 77
Fine Performers for a Few Dollars	Robert L. Jensen 78
Fragrance Anyone	Libby Cross 80
Observations on Longevity of Tall Bearded Iris Seed	Leonard Stoltz 82
Follow Up on Ruth Holleyman	Joe Mertzweiller 84
Youth Membership Contest	Lucy Fry 86
Signal or Color Spot	Howard Shockey 88

Regular Features

President's Desk	3	Gifts to AIS	92
AIS Slides for Rent	21	In Memoriam	93
Membership Rates	51	Contribution Information	93
Youth Views	60	Minutes of Directors' Meeting	96
AIS Sales Items	87	Commercial Directory	100

Advertising this issue on pages 93, 94, & 95

Photo Credits: Terry Aitken 6 lower left, 9 upper left, 13 lower right; Charles Arny 6 upper right; Lu Danielson 6 upper left; Mary Dunn 9 upper right; Allan Ensminger 9 lower right, middle right; Frank Foster 13 lower right; Lucy Fry 13 lower left; Gene Gaddie 13 middle right; Joe Ghio 6 middle left; Ben Hager 10 middle; Bernard Hamner 9 middle left; Larry Harder 5 upper left, 26; Bob Hollingworth 11 upper right, bottom; Sterling Innerst 13 middle right; Bennett Jones 12 lower left; Ardi Kary 5 lower left; Keith Keppel 10 lower right, 12 upper right; Don Koza 26, Ron Mullin 27, 45, 52; Dave Niswonger 5 lower right, 12 lower right; Melinda Robbins 5 upper right; Henry Rowlan 9 lower left; Schreiners 8, 10 top; Howard Shockey 88, 89, 90, 91, Dave Silverberg 9 middle right; Hal Stahly 11 upper left; Steve Stevens 12 upper left; Dennis Stoneburner 30, 59; Steve Varner 6 lower right; John Weiler 10 lower left; Dorothy Willott 6 middle right, 13 upper left; Lloyd Zurbrigg 11 middle.

ON THE COVER: The latest Dykes Medal Winner JESSE'S SONG. Photo by Bryce Williamson.



From the Desk of the President

Kenneth Waite

The 1990 iris season was a very unusual one. Some sections of the country experienced disastrous growing conditions. Other sections had excellent bloom. Most of the Northeast had perfect weather for irises. As the national weather conditions were reported, great concern was felt for members and their gardens in the rain and flood zones. Naturally, iris award results are affected by inconsistent climatic conditions. Perhaps 1991 will be the year of the "ideal" iris season for all regions.

Some concern has been expressed about the Dykes Medal not being awarded in two recent years. A committee to study the advisability of changing the system so that an eligible cultivar would be given the award every year has been named. Careful consideration will be given to determine if any change in the present procedure is warranted.

A committee has been appointed to plan ways The American Iris Society can best commemorate the 75th anniversary of its founding, 1920-1995. Although the birthplace of the organization was New York City, it was incorporated at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, seven years later. Therefore, it is most fitting that the invitation to convene in Pennsylvania in 1995 for the annual convention was accepted.

Immediate Past President James Rasmussen has been working diligently for several years petitioning the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative postage stamp featuring Native American Irises to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee year. You have received the excellent brochure on Native American Irises produced by our Public Relations Committee to be used in this endeavor. You are urged to help further this effort by writing your U.S. Representatives. The RVPs were sent material for the promotion.

The calendar project, popular the past few years, remains active. The 1991 edition will be available soon. May I suggest considering the use of them as inexpensive Christmas gifts to gardening friends? They will be reminded of irises throughout the year.

As autumn leaves drift about the gardens, one is reminded that nature is preparing for the winter's lull. Also, gardeners need this period for renewal to plan and to dream of future iris seasons.

May the coming holidays bring special joys and blessings to all.

1990 AIS AWARDS

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

JESSE'S SONG (TB) (B. Williamson) 120 votes. 16.7%

Runnersup

AZ AP (IB) (A. Ensminger) 70 votes.

EVERYTHING PLUS (TB) (D. Niswonger) 44 votes.

SKY HOOKS (TB) (M. Osborne) 33 votes.

VOTES

KNOWLTON MEDAL (BB)

160 MISS NELLIE (J. Burch)

Runnersup

75 MUSIC BOX DANCER

(E. Roderick)

65 PREDICTION (K. Keppel)

SASS MEDAL (IB)

139 HELLCAT (T. Aitken)

Runnersup

94 BOLD PRINT (J. Gatty)

74 LITTLE SNOW LEMON

(G. Gaddie)

COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

No iris received 15% of the
votes cast.

CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL (MDB)

59 PUSSYTOES (A. & D. Willott)

Runnersup

53 TWIST OF LEMON

(R. & L. Miller)

39 SHRIMP (D. Sindt)

39 FLEA CIRCUS (B. Hager)

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL (SIB)

73 KING OF KINGS (S. Varner)

Runnersup

67 SHIRLEY POPE (C. McEwen)

56 FROSTY RIM (G. Bush)

VOTES

DEBAILLON MEDAL (LA)

58 ACADIAN MISS (C. Arny)

Runnersup

53 DELTA DAWN (M. Dunn)

46 RHETT (M. Dunn)

WILLIAMSON-WHITE AWARD

(MTB)

193 BUMBLEBEE DEELITE

(J. & G. Norrick)

Runnersup

42 CRYSTAL RUFFLES

(M. Dunderman)

27 NEW WAVE (B. Hager)

C. G. WHITE AWARD

(1/2 or more Aril)

41 DEE MOUSE (H. Danielson)

Runnersup

31 JACOB'S WELL (M.

Brizendine)

20 STARS OVER L'PASO

(L. Danielson)

MOHR AWARD

(1/4 TO 1/2 Aril)

29 BOLD SENTRY (L. Peterson)

Runnersup

28 OMAR'S TORCH (C. Boswell)

24 DESERT EMBROIDERY

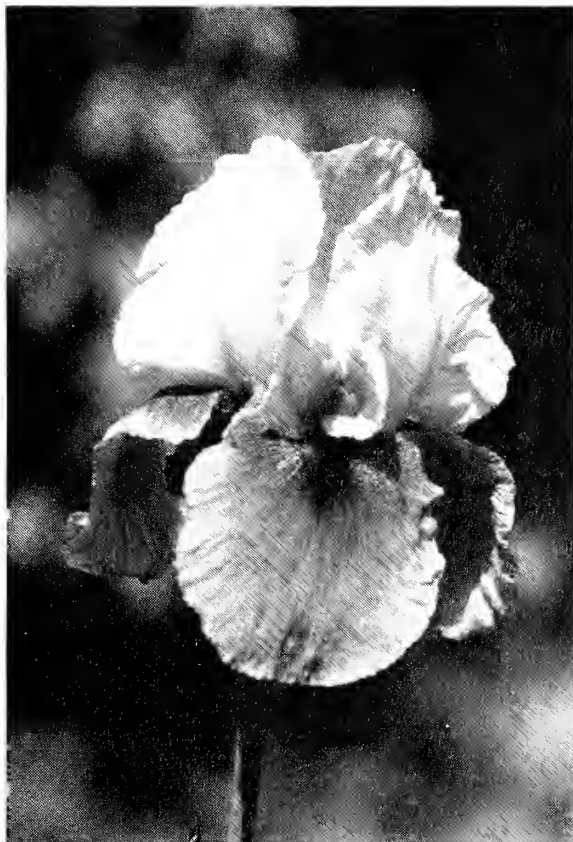
(M. Rogers)



Miss Nellie
Knowlton Medal



Bumblebee Deelite
Williamson-White Award



Bold Sentry
Mohr Award



Cinnamon Stick
Nies Award



Dee Mouse
C.G. White Award



Acadian Miss
Debaillon Medal



Big Money
Mitchell Award



Pussytoes
Caparne-Welch Medal



Hellcat
Sass Medal



King of Kings
Morgan-Wood Medal

VOTES**NIES AWARD (SPU)**

30 CINNAMON STICK
(D. Niswonger)

Runnersup

17 HIGHLINE CORAL
(E. McCown)

17 SUNSET ETCHING
(G. Gaddie)

VOTES**MITCHELL AWARD (CA)**

28 BIG MONEY (J. Ghio)

Runnersup

11 NAPA VALLEY (J. Ghio)

8 DRIVE YOU WILD (J. Ghio)

8 WISH FULFILLMENT (J. Ghio)

PAYNE AWARD (JI)

See AIS Bulletin.

AWARD OF MERIT**VOTES****TALL BEARDED**

289 EDITH WOLFORD (B. Hager)

250 DUSKY CHALLENGER
(Schreiners)

181 BREAKERS (Schreiners)

121 LATIN HIDEAWAY (H. Nichols)

86 IMMORTALITY
(L. Zurbrigg)

86 CRANBERRY CRUSH (T.
Aitken)

71 JEAN HOFFMEISTER (J. Gatty)

69 CRYSTALYN (R. Dunn)

68 NAVAJO JEWEL (J. Weiler)

68 WILD JASMINE (B. Hamner)

65 BLACK FLAG (H. Stahly)

Runnersup

62 DARKSIDE

58 CAFE SOCIETY

58 FRANCES GAULTER

57 EAGLE'S FLIGHT

56 HOLY NIGHT

56 MOMENTUM

BORDER BEARDED

219 BATIK (A. Ensminger)

66 BOY O BOY (J. Ghio)

66 ZINGER (S. Stevens)

Runnersup

48 NURSERY SCHOOL (J. Ghio)

47 COPPER GLAZE (M. Hamblen)

43 KIRSCH (J. Burch)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

105 LOGO (K. Keppel)

79 SUNSHINE BOY (F. Foster)

67 GOLDEN MUFFIN
(D. Niswonger)

Runnersup

36 MOSS BAY (C. Lankow)

36 PENNYWORTH (A. Ensminger)

49 IDA MARY PATTISON
(H. Briscoe)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

112 SUN DOLL (B. Jones)

79 RAZZLE DAZZLE (G. Gaddie)

75 PEOPLE PLEASER
(A. Ensminger)

64 PIPPI LONGSTOCKINGS
(S. Innerst)

Runnersup

56 RITA KINSELLA (H. Briscoe)

55 CHERRY TART (T. Aitken)

51 GRAPESICLE (R. Sobek)

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

46 FUNNY FACE (M. Brizendine)

40 CHUBBY CHERUB (T. Aitken)

39 SNOWY RIVER (A. & D. Willott)

Runnersup

36 LITTLE GREEN EYES
(C. Boswell)

34 BUZZ BEE (R. & L. Miller)

30 EGRET SNOW (D. Sindt)

VOTES**SIBERIANS**

- 115 LADY VANESSA
(R. Hollingworth)
79 HELIOTROPE BOUQUET
(R. Hollingworth)
73 TEMPER TANTRUM
(W. McGarvey)
Runnersup
49 HARPSWELL HAPPINESS
(C. McEwen)
49 PINK SPARKLE (B. Hager)
48 INDY (R. Hollingworth)

VOTES**LOUISIANA**

- 55 ELUSIVE BUTTERFLY (J. Ghio)
43 RUTH SLOAN (R. Sloan)
39 RED ECHO (H. Rowlan)
Runnersup
37 MISSISSIPPI GAMBLER
(M. Dunn)
36 CREOLE QUEEN (M. Dunn)
33 PLANTATION BEAU (M. Dunn)

WALTHER CUP

Most HM votes - All categories

VOTES

- 146 HONKY TONK BLUES (TB)
(Schreiners)

Runnersup

- 135 RUSTLER (K. Keppel)
103 SUPREME SULTAN (TB)
(Schreiners)

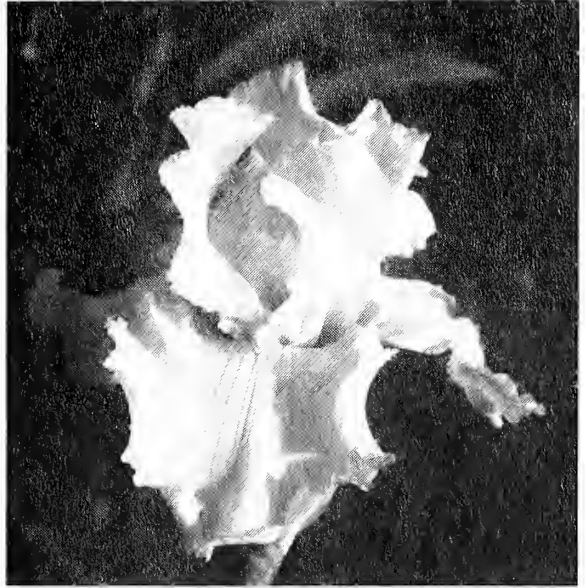
WALTHER CUP WINNER

Honky Tonk Blues

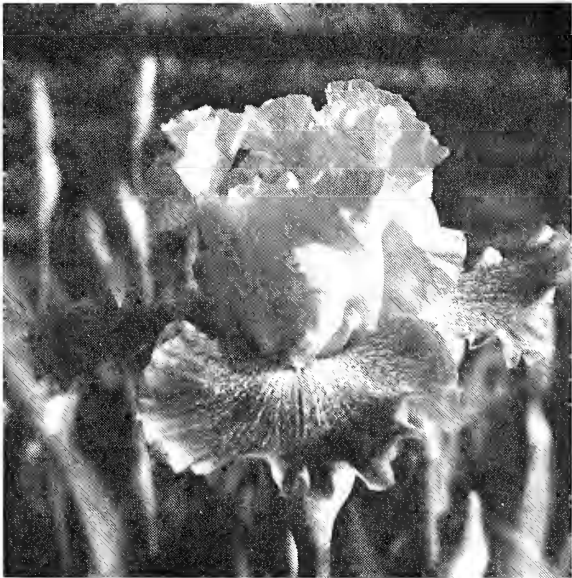
AWARDS OF MERIT



Cranberry Crush



Crystalyn



Wild Jasmine



Latin Hideaway



Red Echo



People Pleaser

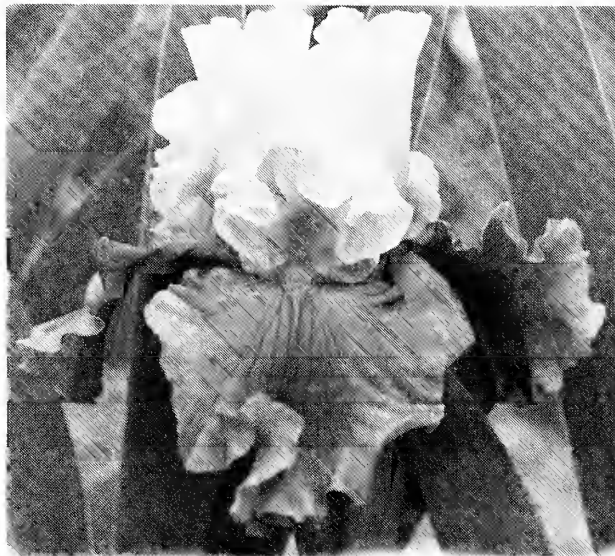
AWARDS OF MERIT



Dusky Challenger



Breakers



Edith Wolford



Navajo Jewel



Jean Hoffmeister

AWARDS OF MERIT



Black Flag



Temper Tantrum



Immortality

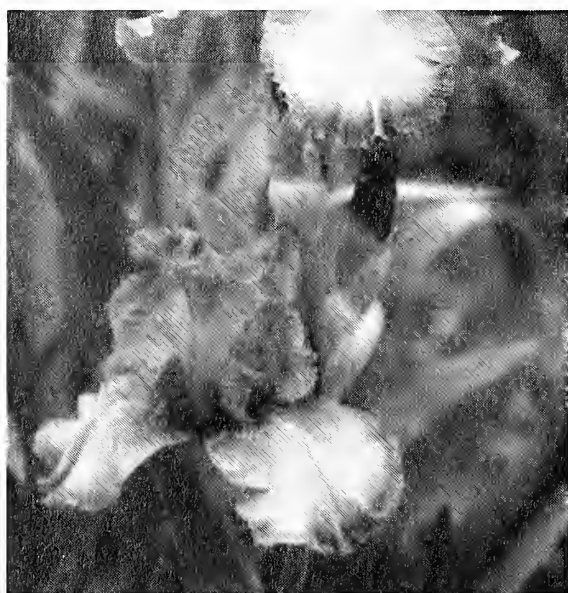


Lady Vanessa



Heliotrope Bouquet

AWARDS OF MERIT



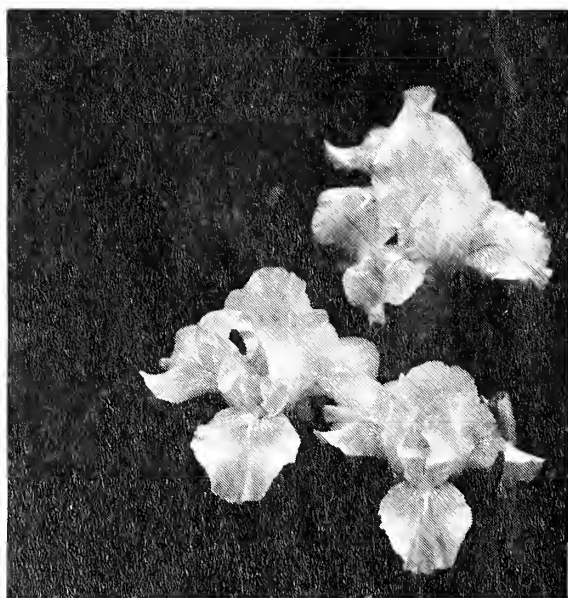
Zinger



Logo



Batik



Sun Doll



Golden Muffins

AWARDS OF MERIT



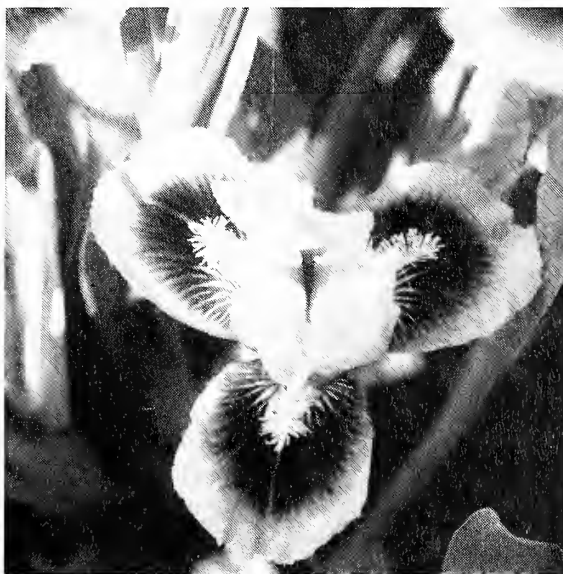
Snowy River



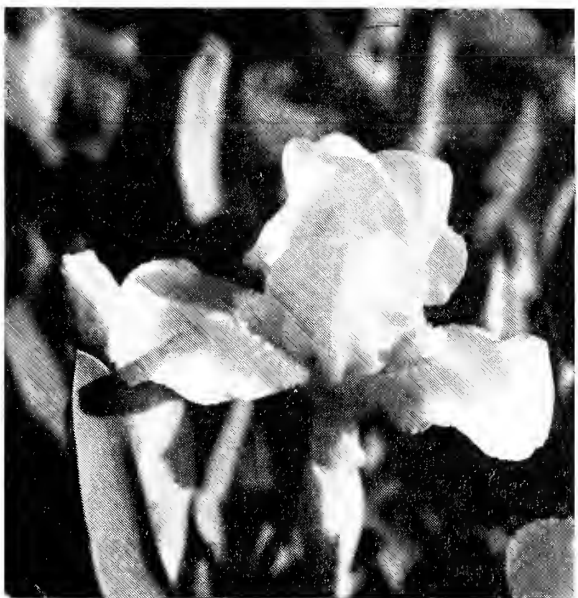
Chubby Cherub



Razzle Dazzle



Pippi Longstockings



Funny Face



Sunshine Boy

HONORABLE MENTION

VOTES

TALL BEARDED

- 146 HONKY TONK BLUES
(Schreiners)
- 135 RUSTLER (K. Keppel)
- 103 SUPREME SULTAN
(Schreiners)
- 98 GLITZ AND GLITTER (P. Black)
- 95 THRILLER (Schreiners)
- 79 JITTERBUG (K. Keppel)
- 75 BEST BET (Schreiners)
- 69 IN TOWN (B. Blyth)
- 67 FRINGE BENEFITS (B. Hager)
- 60 WINDSONG WEST
(H. Nichols)
- 56 ALICE GOODMAN
(E. Roderick)
- 54 DIVINE (M. Dunn)
- 54 FANFARON (B. Hager)
- 51 WITCH'S WAND (B. Blyth)
- 50 SWEETER THAN WINE
(Schreiners)
- 48 LARRY GAULTER (B. Brown)
- 48 MARIA TORMENA
(A. Ensminger)
- 46 JOLT (J. Weiler)
- 44 GENTLE DRAGON (L. Miller)
- 44 IMPRESSIONIST (J. Ghio)
- 43 ARMADA (K. Keppel)
- 42 FARAWAY PLACES (K. Keppel)
- 41 KATY LYNN (E. Kegerise)
- 38 POINT MADE (S. Innerst)
- 38 WINIFRED ROSS
(M. Hamblen)
- 35 INSTRUCTOR (S. Innerst)
- 35 RAVEN ROCK (F. Carr)
- 34 ROLE MODEL (Denny/
McWhirter)
- 33 DOROTHY PALMER
(S. Stevens)
- 32 ESMERALDA (J. Ghio)
- 32 TOP GUN (L. Gaulter)
- 32 ROMANTIC MOOD (J. Ghio)

VOTES

- 31 DAREDEVIL (K. Keppel)
- 31 NANCY GLAZIER
(M. Hamblen)
- 31 NOBLE HOUSE (J. McWhirter)
- 29 EASTER LACE (M. Byers)
- 29 LACE ARTISTRY (T. Aitken)
- 28 HOT STREAK (J. Ghio)
- 28 JAZZABEL (A. Ensminger)
- 28 PURGATORY (W. Moores)
- 27 BLOWTORCH (M. Byers)
- 27 CIRCUS JEWEL (Albers/
Nichols)
- 27 BROCADED GOWN
(C. Tompkins)
- 27 INDISCREET (J. Ghio)
- 27 INLAND PRINCESS
(B. Hamner)
- 27 MEMOIRS (J. Ghio)
- 27 PAGAN PINK (M. Byers)
- 27 RADIANT ENERGY
(B. Maryott)
- 27 SQUEEZE LOUISE (H. Nichols)
- 27 SUNKIST FRILLS (D. Palmer)
- 27 VENUS AND MARS
(R. Nelson)
- 27 VERACITY (J. Hummel)
- 26 BLUE ARISTOCRAT
(Schreiners)
- 26 TIDE MARK (J. Hummel)
- 25 AMAZON BRIDE (B. Hager)
- 25 INAUGURAL BALL (J. Ghio)
- 25 ROYALIST (M. Dunn)

BORDER BEARDED

- 43 SEMPER FI (H. Ames)
- 39 CANDYLAND (M. Byers)
- 25 BELLA BELLA (C. Boswell)
- 25 CASTLE STRONGHOLD
(H. Nichols)
- 25 OUTRAGEOUS (J. & L. Fry)
- 24 JUST JENNIFER (Taylor/Sindt)

VOTES

- 22 ANGEL ECHO (J. Ennenga)
- 21 CAT NAP (C. Tompkins)
- 21 CUTE ORANGE HORN
(G. Sutton)
- 21 DOUBLE BANDED
(C. Boswell)
- 17 CHANGE ARTIST (G. Corlew)
- 16 LITTLE O CHRIS (D. Shepard)
- 15 ARTESIAN LADY (R. Lyons)
- 15 SOLAR ECLIPSE (G. Slade)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

- 85 MORNING SHOW
(A. Ensminger)
- 82 OBLIGATO (H. Stahly)
- 73 THEDA CLARK (H. Nichols)
- 66 TRIPLET (K. Keppel)
- 62 BLUEBIRD IN FLIGHT
(D. Niswonger)
- 54 TCHIN-TCHIN (J. Gatty)
- 27 NEW KID (G. Shoop)
- 27 PATCHES ON PARADE
(T. Aitken)
- 26 VITALITY (J. Ritchie)
- 20 CUM LAUDE (A. Ensminger)
- 19 HUG A BUNCH (G. Shoop)
- 18 HOLIDAY FLAME (Schreiners)
- 16 ALL RIGHT (B. Hager)
- 16 FLIVVER (S. Innerst)
- 16 GOOD AND TRUE
(A. Ensminger)
- 16 MABEL WING (R. Jeffries)
- 15 LITTLE SUNROSE
(J. & V. Craig)
- 15 LOVE'S TUNE (A. Ensminger)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

- 67 ORANGE TIGER (B. Jones)
- 23 COURT MAGICIAN
(H. Nichols)
- 23 FORTE (P. Black)
- 23 SAM (T. Aitken)
- 22 Highborn Kinsman
(H. Nichols)
- 21 VIOLET LULU (B. Warburton)

VOTES

- 20 BROAD GRIN (C. Lankow)
- 20 CRISPIN (R. & L. Miller)
- 18 ALICE BRISCOE (H. Briscoe)
- 18 PASTEL DELIGHT
(A. & D. Willott)
- 17 BALKANA BABY (C. Boswell)
- 17 LIME MIST (A. & D. Willott)
- 17 SEA URCHIN (T. Aitken)
- 17 SEA JEWEL (D. Albers)
- 17 VEGAS SHOWGIRL
(A. & D. Willott)
- 16 BUNNY HOP (P. Black)
- 16 CUTE STUFF (C. Boswell)
- 16 PURE ALLURE (J. Ritchie)
- 16 TILLIE (G. Shoop)
- 15 BLUE NYMPH (G. Gaddie)
- 15 CAR HOP (P. Black)
- 15 HAFNIUM (S. Innerst)
- 15 OKLAHOMA JUBILEE
(C. Palmer)
- 15 SMELL THE ROSES (M. Byers)
- 15 TUFFET (T. Magee)

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

- 43 TINY CHERUB (B. Hager)
- 34 WEE FOLK (A. & D. Willott)
- 33 CANDY FLUFF (L. Miller)
- 30 SNUGGLES (L. Miller)
- 27 BROWN IMP (J. & L. Fry)
- 24 HARRY HITE (Hite/Norrick)
- 23 SLEEPY TIME (Schreiners)
- 22 PITTANCE (L. Miller)
- 19 DAISY FRESH (A. & D. Willott)
- 18 DUMPLING (B. Hager)
- 18 SUNNY SONG (A. & D. Willott)
- 17 BITE SIZE (L. Miller)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

- 99 WELCH'S REWARD (Welch/
Hall)
- 52 JOLLY JIM (M. Dunderman)
- 50 SECOND OPINION
(L. Bausch)
- 41 LITTLE ME (B. Hager)

VOTES

- 30 LADY OF MARIETTA (T. Varner)
- 24 DAINTY BIANCA (J. Witt)
- 21 LITTLE WHO (B. Hager)
- 16 LITTLE YOU (B. Hager)
- 13 MANISSES (T. Varner)

ARILBRED (¼ to ½ aril)

- 30 LITTLE BROWN JUG (D. Meek)
- 21 JAMITA (F. Gadd)
- 20 DESERT SPRING (L. Flanagan)
- 20 PEBBLE BROOK (F. Gadd)
- 19 SPLASH DANCE (D. Shepard)
- 17 RANCHIPUR (W. Moores)
- 12 DOWN PAYMENT
(H. Danielson)
- 11 NEW MELODY (L. Peterson)
- 10 MOHRIC ART (L. Peterson)

ARIL and ARILBRED

(½ or more aril)

- 34 SYRIAN PRINCESS
(H. Shockey)
- 32 PERSIAN PADISHAH
(H. Shockey)
- 18 APRIL FRESH (J. & L. Fry)
- 17 BIONIC FLASH (H. Danielson)
- 14 BRONZE FALCON
(L. Danielson)
- 13 JUDEAN MAGIC (H. Shockey)
- 12 ZIMBEK (F. Gadd)
- 10 DESERT DIAMOND (B. Hager)
- 10 LAVENDER LEMON
(L. Danielson)

SPURIA

- 58 CHOCOLATE FUDGE
(D. Niswonger)
- 36 SNOW HAWK (G. Corlew)
- 33 ARIZONA CONVENTION
(D. Niswonger)
- 31 LACED COFFEE (H. Rowlan)
- 26 LOOK LIVELY (B. Hager)
- 24 SOCIAL LADY (H. Rowlan)
- 24 LUCKY DEVIL (J. Ghio)
- 21 IN DEPTH (B. Hager)

VOTES

- 18 PICACHO PEAK
(F. Wickenkamp)

SIBERIAN

- 43 ILLINI DAME (S. Varner)
- 33 PAS-DE-DEUX
(R. Hollingworth)
- 32 SULTAN'S RUBY
(R. Hollingworth)
- 21 CHARMING DARLENE (A. M. Miller)
- 21 RASPBERRY PUNCH
(J. Ennenga)
- 20 CATHY CHILDERS
(D. Johnson)
- 18 AQUA WHISPERS
(A. M. Miller)
- 18 MAD MAGENTA (B. Warburton)
- 18 ROY BOHRER (H. Briscoe)
- 17 HELICOPTER (Shidara/Hager)
- 17 REPRISE (B. Warburton)
- 18 SERENADE IN BLUE (K. Waite)
- 17 SILVER ROSE (B. Warburton)
- 16 SWIRLING LAVENDER
(A. M. Miller)
- 15 ANNICK (C. McEwen)
- 15 BERNARD McLAUGHLIN
(C. McEwen)
- 15 LUCKY LILAC (C. McEwen)
- 15 REGENCY BELLE
(C. McEwen)

LOUISIANA

- 22 SINFONIETTA (R. Raabe)
- 21 JERI (N. Bertinot)
- 19 KAY NELSON (M. Granger)
- 18 C'EST BONNE (M. Dunn)
- 16 DELTA BELLE (M. Dunn)
- 15 PROFESSOR SIGMOND
(J. Mertzweiller)

CALIFORNICAE

- 11 FORTE POINT (V. Wood)
- 11 SANTA CRUZ BEACH (J. Ghio)
- 10 MIMSEY (V. Wood)
- 10 SIERRA DELL (L. Lawyer)

“Go National in '91”—the Gardens

Phil Ogilvie (District of Columbia)

If our experience of these gardens during this year's Region 4 Spring Meeting is any indication of what to expect during the 1991 AIS National Convention, then we all have a real treat in store. In spite of the absolutely disastrous winter/spring 1989-90 in this area, these gardens showed excellent growth of most of the guest irises and put on a show enjoyed by all.

It has come to my attention that there is some apprehension on the part of next year's Conventioneers about the safety of attending a convention in Washington, D.C., the “murder and crime capital” of America. Let me, for the moment, put aside my hat as publicity chairman for the convention and speak frankly to you as the Public Records Administrator for the District of Columbia. While there has been a great deal of crime in Washington, it is very localized and you have nothing to fear from it unless you seek it out. The hotel selected as Convention Headquarters is **not** located in Washington, but rather in Virginia, 9 miles west of the center of the capital city. Unless you choose otherwise, the closest you will be to downtown Washington is on the tranquil campus of Georgetown University about 3 miles away. I stand ready to direct you to safe areas and activities in the city and to try to make your stay safe, pleasant, and interesting.

The even dozen display gardens chosen for next year's convention (one in the District of Columbia, four in Virginia, and seven in Maryland) represent a diversity of growing conditions around the Washington area. They are located throughout this historic countryside where so many shed their blood for ideals as noble as freedom or as base as profit.

(1) **The Heyden Garden**, on the historic campus of Georgetown University (est. 1789), has been created by Don Spoon to resemble a nineteenth century garden in a religious establishment. Thus, the shape and the arrangement of beds represent deep religious symbolism.

This garden is situated on the high bluffs overlooking the Potomac River at the base of the University's Astronomical Observatory which was established by Father James Curley in 1841. The observatory equipment is still in working order, and Don is always glad to show you through. Since this is a floral display garden, you will be able to view, in addition to a wide variety of irises, (both bearded and beardless), many other flowers, ranging from roses to water lilies. However, pride of place is always given to the iris, and here you will see guests as well as many of Don's own seedlings.

(2) **The Iris Garden of Celeste and Charles Cox** in Falls Church, Virginia, always poses a mystery to me. How can a garden that gives the impression of shade provide enough sun to produce magnificent irises? Here the irises are exhibited as part of a carefully conceived and executed landscape plan which surrounds a lovely suburban home. There is something here for everyone as the plantings include herbs, lovely old trees, many perennials, and

beautiful, mature azaleas. Although there are no guest irises here, Celeste's personal collection is spectacular, and the Cox garden should be listed by the Virginia Department of Highways as a hazard to navigation since the attractive iris displays are apt to distract the passing motorist.

(3) From the wooden garden accents to the koi pond, **The Iris Pond**, Clarence and Suky Mahan's McLean, Virginia garden exhibits a definite Japanese flavor. The unifying theme of this lovely and interesting garden is irises—of every variety. Here you can see guest irises and the products of Clarence's own hybridizing efforts as well as introductions of other Region 4 hybridizers for whom Clarence introduces. Those with specialized interests in historic and reblooming irises will find some real gems among the extensive collection to be seen here. Since many of us have horticultural interests beyond irises, I must also mention the specimens of hostas, historic roses and Suky's peonies displayed in this beautifully landscaped setting. In addition to full-time employment protecting our environment, Clarence is serving as 1991 National Convention Chairman and President of the Society for Japanese Iris.

(4) **The John Lawson Garden** in Annandale, Virginia, is a rural oasis in the surrounding suburban desert. The original farm house and some of the dependencies were saved when the area was subdivided and form a small rural preserve within the urban environs. Planted in the extensive iris beds, one will find rare species and species clones as well as named varieties of many kinds of irises. John's guests include Arils, MTBs, and Siberians as well as Tall Bearded. Don't miss the *Hosta*, *Allium*, and *Sedum* collections growing companionably alongside some of the tastiest vegetables in the metropolitan area. Here the traditional hospitality of the great Commonwealth of Virginia is practiced at its best, and you will feel comfortable in this garden.

(5) **Nicholls' Gardens**, home of Diana and Mike Nicholls on five acres in Gainesville, Virginia, is near the bloody fields of the first and second battles of Bull Run, fought over the important railroad junction of Manassas [How's that for getting both the northern and southern names for the battles in the same sentence?] A large proportion of the guest irises of all types, including many Arils, are in this garden along with those irises introduced through Nicholls' Gardens. Again, many irises are pleasingly integrated with other flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Ofnote are the large Japanese and Siberian iris plantings. There are some very special *Clematis* here as well. Every inch of this garden is beautifully and creatively landscaped. You will have to travel a long way before you find a garden that offers so much visual satisfaction.

In addition to her extensive work in the garden, Diana serves as the President of the Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society.

(6) **Glen Cairn Farm** is a cattle ranch located between the Potomac and the Monocary Rivers near the farming community of Tuscarora, Maryland. One of the joys of this area is that such a pastoral setting can be found within 35 miles of the nation's capital. Joanne and Dick Murphy are establishing a retirement home that will certainly provide opportunities for as much work as they care to

enjoy. Most of their 200 guest irises can be observed in the long curved bed paralleling the driveway. This lovely new planting is liberally laced with Bradford Pear trees, daylilies, peonies and other suitable companion plantings. The overall effect is simply beautiful.

This property is very close to the Monocacy Battlefield where General Lew Wallace's brave stand slowed the Confederate march on Washington long enough for General Grant to bring defenders from the siege of Richmond. As I said before, this whole convention area bounds with reminders of our nation's battles for freedom.

(7) **The Green Box**, Dick Sparling's wonderful garden in Olney, Maryland, is a marvel of planning, consisting totally of raised beds, (thus the name), which contain 2600 different irises—separated by neat grass walkways. Of particular interest to me are the number of rare bearded species present. Dick's garden contains 650 guests, including almost all the medians submitted and a wide variety of beardless iris visitors. It is always a joy to visit this fascinating, friendly garden and to enjoy the warm hospitality dispensed by Dick and Meredith Sparling. Dick is serving the convention as both Guest Iris and Tour Garden chairman.

(8) **Heritage Rosarium**, home of Nick and Rosanne Weber, has long been known for its collection of Old Roses. Next year it will expand its reputation with the largest single planting of guest irises to be seen at the 1991 AIS Convention. This garden contains over 700 of our guest irises, including representatives of all the median and tall bearded varieties submitted. These irises, planted in virgin soil and widely spaced for easy viewing, show great promise for an impressive convention display next year. If bird watching is among your leisure pursuits, this homestead carved out of the mature forest provides many unusual opportunities for you. If old roses are among your passions, Nick has a treasure trove of knowledge to share on this subject.

(9) Like its owner, **the garden of Rosalie Figge** in Towson, Maryland, is an institution among local irisarians. One is immediately impressed with the gardener's love of history, as evidenced by the Dawn Redwood tree, the boxwoods slipped from historical locations, the arrangement of irises by year of introduction and the many examples of the old and famous among iris cultivars. Her interest in reblooming irises and historic varieties will be seen throughout the plantings in this garden of moderate size and maximum impact. Irises in this garden will be clearly marked and the convention guests, which will include Louisianas, Border bearded and Siberians, can be spotted without difficulty.

Rosalie is a superb gardener who is truly dedicated to spreading the word about our favorite flower, and she generously shares her time, knowledge, and plants, especially with new irisarians. She is the dynamic President of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society, as well as a keen genealogist and a topnotch parliamentarian.

(10) **City Hall Iris Garden** in Westminster, Maryland, was conceived and executed by the Francis Scott Key Iris Society as "A Tribute to Region 4

Hybridizers.” Spearheaded and nurtured by Doris and Owings Rebert who spent many long, weary hours in acquiring, planting, and caring for the irises in this bed, this planting became a reality in 1986. In the intervening four years it has matured both in size and scope. Here can be found irises no longer in commerce, and, in some instances, Westminster may be the only place where some cultivars are still grown. While rough maintenance is carried out by city garden keepers, FSK and the Reberts continue to keep an eye (and a hand) on their “baby”.

In keeping with our historical theme, this 1764 town is the county seat of Carroll County and, during the Civil War, was occupied successively by the troops of both armies.

(11) **Iris Haven** the garden of Doris and Owings Rebert in Westminster, Maryland boasts one of the largest collections of named older irises in the country, so if historic irises are your bag, this garden is for you! However, there are more than 2000 irises planted here and many of them are the newest and best. The convention guests here are primarily Tall Bearded and Median varieties. Even with this many irises, space has been provided for many annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs—all melded into a pleasing and impressive display. Anyone who has ever been here will tell you that the first look at the hundreds of irises which march up and disappear over the crest of the hill provides a never-to-be-forgotten visual treat. The Reberts have been active members of AIS for many years, and Doris and Owings have served in many capacities at both local and regional levels.

(12) **Draycott** is the residence of Region 4’s gracious Regional Vice President, Carol Warner, and her husband Andy. This lovely home with its creatively landscaped grounds sits like a small jewel surrounded by the wooded Maryland hills in the heart of the rolling hunt country of northern Baltimore County. The irises here are planted as part of an integrated landscape scheme and include beardless as well as bearded varieties of all types. Carol is well known for her interest and expertise in the areas of Siberian and Japanese iris culture. The healthy plant growth throughout reflects the talents of the gardener in this red clay where the irises seem to thrive. There is ample space for viewing the convention guests as well as Carol’s personal collection of irises. If you wish to sit and gaze at the beauty around you, there are facilities for that too. A warm welcome awaits you here and you will leave this garden refreshed in body and spirit.

American Iris Society Conventions

1991	Washington, DC	May 18-22
1992	Atlanta, GA	April 28-May 2
1993	Fort Worth, TX	April 25-30
1994	Portland, OR	
1995	Hershey, PA	
1996	Sacramento, CA	

IRIS SLIDES FOR RENT

AIS offers a number of iris slides sets for rental to members, each consisting of approximately 100 35mm slides. These provide excellent programs for both iris societies and garden clubs.

SLIDE SETS AVAILABLE FOR 1991

THE NEWEST IN IRISES: 1988 through 1991 introductions—mostly TB, but contains some other types.

RECENT AWARD WINNERS: HM and AM winners—1987 thru 1990.

THE POPULARITY POLL: Favorite irises as reflected by the 1990 AIS Symposium.

RECENT BEAUTIES: Recent introductions which have not as yet won the HM award—mostly TB, but includes other types.

TYPES OTHER THAN TALL BEARDED: Bearded and beardless—arranged in blooming sequence.

RELIABLES: Mostly past award winners of various types—especially suited for newer iris societies and garden clubs.

1989 MEMPHIS CONVENTION:

1990 OMAHA CONVENTION;

To Order: Requests for slides should be made well in advance of requested date, preferably six to eight weeks. If optional, specify alternate sets and/or dates. Clearly *print* name and mailing address to whom slides are to be sent. Rental fee is \$7.50 per set, payable to AIS. Only one set allowed for any request date. AIS Affiliate Societies are entitled to one free set per calendar year. Slide sets are to be returned next day after viewing by FIRST CLASS/PRIORITY mail.

Send check with request to:

Howard Shockey, Chairman
Slides Committee
4611 Rio Grande Lane, N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87107

IRIS SLIDES NEEDED

Hybridizers and camera buffs! To keep the existing AIS slide sets updated and of improved quality, a constant supply of good slides is needed. If you have high quality close-up slides of the below listed, won't you please submit them for possible inclusion in the slide sets? Selected slides will be duplicated, and the originals returned to you, if requested. Acute needs for revisions beginning in November are slides of:

1989 through 1991 introductions of all types.

1988 through 1990 HM and AM award winners—all types.

Arrangements—Floral designs featuring irises.

Please mail to: **Howard Shockey, Chairman**

Slides Committee

4611 Rio Grande Lane, N.W.

Albuquerque, N.M. 87107

AIS SLIDE RENTAL INCREASE

Due to the 20% increase in postage effective next February, and to the ever increasing costs of film and processing, the fee to rent an AIS slide set has been increased to \$7.50.

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent, which feature irises of each respective group. Rental fee is \$5.00 per set, unless noted otherwise. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

ARILS and ARILBREDS: Order from Clay H. Osborne, 47806 Calle Fiesta, Indio, CA 92201—Check to Aril Society International.

DWARFS: Order from Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beechwood, OH 44122. Check to DIS.

HISTORIC IRIS PRESERVATION SOCIETY (HIPS): Contact Joan Cooper, 212 West Country Rd. C, St. Paul, MN 55113.

JAPANESE: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check to Japanese Iris Society.

LOUISIANAS: Order from LaVera Burkett, 1002 Randall, Searcy, AR 72143. Check to LISA.

MEDIANS: Order from Terry Aitken, 608 N.W. 119th St., Vancouver, WA 98685. Check to MIS.

REBLOOMERS: Contact Earl E. Hall, 1495 Enterprise Road, West Alexandria, OH 45381.

SIBERIANS: Order from Thomas Abrego, P.O. Box 693, Newberg, OR 97132. Check to Society for Siberian Irises.

SPECIES: Several sets available—Order from Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury, MA 01776. Check to SIGNA.

SPURIAS: To order, contact Ray M. John, 1004 Springfield, Ft. Worth, TX 76112.



PRESIDENT'S CUP

MORNING SHOW	IB	Ensminger
RUNNERSUP		
AZ AP	IB	Ensminger
BATIK	BB	Ensminger
TRANQUILLINO	TB	Gaddie
MARIA TORMENA	TB	Ensminger
PISTOL	TB	Claussen

COOK CUP

RUSTLER	TB	Keppel
RUNNERSUP		
IN TOWN	TB	Blyth
MISS NELLIE	BB	Burch
KATIE LYNN	TB	Ev. Kegerise
RASPBERRY FUDGE	TB	Keppel

Prairie in Bloom

Upon entering Nebraska, one quickly notices the sweet rockets blooming along the roadsides. Those from other states outside the midlands would probably also notice how many drivers signal a greeting as they meet other cars. For someone from the midlands, this would merely make us feel at home since this is a common occurrence in this part of the country. Nebraskans further show their friendliness by smiling or speaking when they meet someone when walking on the street, another midlands trait. All this set the mood for Prairie in Bloom. Friendly Nebraskans quickly made everyone feel at ease and ready to enjoy Cornhusker hospitality.

The headquarters hotel was large and meeting rooms were adequate for their purposes. Many conventioners ate at the restaurant across the street and proved that a discount goes a long way in reducing complaints about slow service.

Nebraska was dressed in its best springtime green, with the rolling prairie land visible for miles. The gardens toured were all spacious and well tended, and very few of them were on flat land as was probably expected in this Great Plains State.

The weather cooperated by not bringing windy or rainy days. It did rain, but that was generally at night. The temperatures were in the pleasant range. But, the weather had not cooperated at earlier times during the year and this affected the bloom season.

Bloom was not abundant, in fact, it was sparse in many gardens. Irisarians don't have to see irises in bloom to have a good time, and lack of bloom led many to notice other things: the vigorous growth, the healthy foliage, outstanding clumps, and in the case of AMENITY at the Schliefert garden, the perfect stalks with promise of multiple blooms which prompted one judge to comment that this is how an iris should look.

At the Wulf garden, hosts wore authentic western attire, complete with guns; the Harder home had enough artifacts to make everyone envious; Hummels displayed iris quilts; the Sass Memorial Garden was a living history lesson with its historic planting; the Schliefert garden featured a beautifully remodeled old farm home and an unused outhouse which was a delight to some and a reminder to others that the good old days were not so good; and DeNaeyer's had the biggest, friendliest chicken ever to advertise the Chicken Festival in Wayne. Each gardener had done everything possible to make the convention memorable, and they succeeded.

One thing which is seldom mentioned is the Program Booklet. The one from Omaha deserves special praise because it was excellent.

The prairie was not in bloom the way our hosts had hoped, but they made up for it with innovations, with genuine hospitality, and by being sincere and not the least bit pretentious. When winter winds chill the Nebraska air, may their hearts be warmed by the fact that they did everything well. And, yes enough of the irises bloomed to make quite a display too.

The Emerald Valley Iris Garden

Jean Erickson (California)

The area in which Eugene and Dorothy Kalkwarf live has been called the Emerald Valley because the trees and other vegetation appear a more intense green than that of neighboring areas in the vicinity of Lincoln, Nebraska. Living in semi-arid Northern California where residences have a minimum amount of green lawn, I was struck by the spaciousness of the well tended velvet lawn as we arrived at the garden.

A welcome sign identifying the Emerald Valley Iris Garden was surrounded by a very nice mixed planting which included, among the irises, a good clump of Allan Ensminger's BERRY RICH ('86), a border iris of lilac-purple color, and the old diploid LORELEI (F. Robinson '53) with yellow standards over rose-purple falls. This interesting variety was identified for me by Ben Hager.

The many flower beds were laid out for good viewing with lush, broad, grass-covered spaces between. The long, narrow iris beds were formed with heavy lumber set in the lovely carpet of grass and there was plenty of room to move about. Bloom was very good and was set off by the backdrop of trees, mainly ash. Specimen spruce trees, among others, provided different texture.

I gravitated to a bed of Siberian irises close by to find three which I thought were blooming well early in their season. Robert Hollingworth's HELIOTROPE BOUQUET ('84), of mauve color with blue in the center of the falls was there along with his WINDWOOD SPRING ('84), a tetraploid of light blue shades having a yellow blaze on the falls. There was also Steve Varner's DANCE BALLERINA DANCE ('82), with pale pink-violet standards over darker falls. It is always nice.

The irises looked good, and I had to remind myself there had been periods of heavy rain prior to the convention gathering. There were well grown daylillies and Louisiana irises not yet in bloom as well as other types of plant material which would be showy after the bearded sorts were finished blooming.

"I don't care what color it is as long as it is pink . . ." and I was very quickly drawn to the border bearded amoena, PEACH PETALS ('87), of Dave Niswonger. It has near-white standards and pink falls with somewhat small blooms. Later I was to find SUNSHINE SONG, also a Niswonger creation ('85) which was attractive. It is white as are the falls which have yellow at the hafts which spreads down the sides. It has matching beards, and I thought it was very nice.

Mary Dunn's DIVINE ('87) is a ruffled tall with pale orchid standards and medium violet falls featuring a white zone. I found it looking very good as I had in other gardens. I also enjoyed her GO ROUND ('82), a pale blue plicata on white which is always a winner.

I was intrigued with ORETTA McCARTHY (Durrance '88), a tall, medium grey-blue self with darker beards. It had seven buds and was certainly worthy of a second look. Sometimes—more often than I care to admit—I have trouble describing a color as I see it and must enlist the help of experts. This time I appealed, once again, to Ben Hager to describe the color of a most unusual seedling by Joe Gatty. It is number G 30/A and has standards of orchid-mauve over apricot falls. If this is a color you like, be sure to watch for it.

There was a small group of people around a tall, white variety. I thought it looked familiar, and I noticed it was holding up in the weather quite well. It was ALABAMA BOUND, an old friend of mine created by Frank Foster ('79).

Of the smaller ones, there was Harry Kuesel's border bearded STEPPING LITTLE ('69). It is obviously a child of Stepping Out, growing a little out of class here, but very attractive. The border MISS NELLIE (J. Burch '79) has greyed-yellow standards over red-violet falls with a conspicuous edge of light violet. It is distinctive and I always remember the delightful real-life Miss Nellie as she stood for photographers in front of a large clump of it in an AIS convention garden. Memories such as this do tend to linger long after one has forgotten the year or place.

There were MTBs to be admired. By coincidence, those in bloom and appealing to me were all from Kenneth Fisher. SPRING HARMONY ('86) had many blooms with standards of medium lavender over purple falls. CAROL LEE ('87), with standards of medium yellow and dark purple falls edged yellow, was attractive. I discovered, on reading about it, that CONSUMMATION was a parent. Finally, there was OZARK SKY ('88) a white ground blue-lavender plicata. I made a mental note to find them somewhere; I have a small yard and can use small irises.

The intermediate CAROLINA CHARMER (Albers '85) was a subdued gold colored bi-tone with veining at the hafts. It is a soft, pleasing color.

Wandering about the yard and enjoying every minute, I saw our old friend CUP RACE (Buttrick '62) a nice white looking almost as beautiful as I had seen it near its home ground in Bedford, Mass. during the Boston convention. I made a mental note to replace it in my garden and quickly remembered the limitations of my small yard.

There was a group of people around a variety recently registered as UNION PACIFIC (March '89). It is a ruffled gold with red-brown veins radiating from the beard to the edge of the falls. The stalk was nice; it was an attractive color and I wondered how it would hold up when the sun shone and the weather warmed. It was really striking here under the subdued light.

Schreiner's OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE ('89) has pink-tan standards over falls of darker rose-violet, edged pink-tan. There is a pronounced light stripe down the falls . . . a "belly" stripe, if you will, and red-orange beards. Despite my description, it is attractive and attention getting.

Working my way to the back garden, I found large plantings which had grown, undivided, to reach their impressive size. Bloom was also most impressive on many. It has been a long time since I have seen such extravagant

clumps. Among them was PISTOL (Claussen '82) which I had never seen. Even though I have seen other similar bloom, this was a beautiful, dazzling clump worthy of everyone's admiration. It is of medium lavender-blue featuring a darker wash on the falls. Here also, was AZ AP looking very nice as it had everywhere in its home territory.

Blooming well was ROSY VEIL, a delicate, beautiful thing introduced in 1953 by the Sass brothers, which has a certain grace not found in many of today's cultivars. It is a white ground plicata with rosy-violet markings. There was another Sass beauty called AZURITE (Sass-Plough '59), a violet plicata with grace. And there was SPINNING WHEEL (Nearpass '74), always a favorite of mine. It is distinctive with bronze beards on a white based plicata.

There was a rose with the most thorns I had ever seen. I was told it was the antique HARRISON'S YELLOW which was brought to the West in the early days by pioneers who traveled in wagon trains.

I am told that Dorothy Kalkwarf has lived here all her life. I know she is an expert cookie maker because she made those offered in the garden. How do I know? That's easy, I am an expert cookie eater! I would have liked more time to wander in the yard. Touring this garden was a most pleasant experience, and I thank the Kalkwarfs for the opportunity to do so.



Morning Show
President's Cup
Winner

Keith Keppel receives
The Franklin Cook Cup
for Rustler



The DeNaeyer Garden

Bill Maryott (California)

A long country road took us to the beautiful large stucco farm house of the DeNaeyer family. The acreage is located on a beautiful grassy hill surrounded by lovely green fields. The weather was perfect with a light breeze blowing.

We were welcomed at the garden entrance by a wing-flapping, giant, big-footed yellow and chartreuse chicken about 6 feet 3 inches tall.

The irises were grown in large rectangular beds made with treated timbers. Wide, grassy paths made for easy viewing access. Unfortunately, the season was running a few days late and many of the irises had not yet opened.

Some of the varieties seen in bloom were a tall stalk of GLITZ N GLITTER and a nice showing of OKLAHOMA CRUDE both from Paul Black in Oklahoma. WAY OUT WEST, bred from Kona Coast and Beyond by Hooker Nichols, appeared to me to be a twin of AUTUMN ECHO. JITTERBUG bloomed short but dependably in many of the gardens. SPRING LOVE is a big ruffled light blue from the Craigs in Oregon. BEST BET with multiple stalks was not blooming too heavily in this garden as it has in many other places. POLAR SEAS showed its clean white flowers trimmed in a precise blue-purple rim. Other early bloomers were BETTY FRANCES, a pale blue and GALA DELIGHT, a rather nice yellow from Henry Rowlan. Also noticed was SEA WOLF by Terry Aitken. In the front yard, one could not help but notice the beautiful peony, LEDA, in full bloom with giant rose red flowers.

We would have enjoyed seeing this garden again in a few days when more was in bloom, but having the opportunity to see the green fields and wide open spaces was a pure joy to me.

Audrey Machulak makes friends with the giant chicken at the Iris Den.



OBSERVATIONS OF AN EARLY ARRIVAL

Jane Hall (New York)

It is always interesting to be an early arrival at a Convention for there is usually a bit of warm activity going on as friends and acquaintances see each other again. This year was no exception. There are always a few who come several days before convention activities begin, but it was a surprise to see so many already in the hotel when I arrived on Saturday. And the Convention desk was already open!! This made it convenient to review the convention packet and what to plan. Word soon got around that Jim Ennenga, a past RVP who lives in Omaha, was inviting everyone to his garden that evening for a pre-convention get together. Those who had cars offered to shuttle all who needed a ride. The lobby took on a festive air as people gathered to be shuttled to the party.

At the Ennenga home we were welcomed by the entire family. It was a most pleasant evening of conversation, garden viewing, and good eating. I watched in amazement as refreshments kept coming and coming from inside the house. Even before a plate was empty it was promptly refilled. There was such a variety that it was not possible to sample everything—cakes, cookies, bars, fresh fruits, sandwich fixings, breads, cheeses, greens, etc. Especially tasty were muffin sandwiches made with two kinds of fillings. One of the girls said they made 250 of each!! Jim's homemade wines, in several flavors, were also plentiful and helped take the chill off for the evening was quite cool. A bonfire in one corner of the yard was also enjoyed. Along the walkway to the garden, as well as in the garden, were large plantings of Jim's SAILPLANE in full bloom. There were others in bloom also, but I was intrigued with the T.B. seedling E-85-16-1—an unusual lavender on purple with a wide purple edge around the falls and a yellow-brown beard tipped with lavender. Dark brown markings deep in the haft added interest, and it had very good branching. Surely deserves an HC!

On Sunday the hotel lobby bustled with the arrivals of many more irisarians. Soon two projects were underway. In room JFK C, opening off the lobby, an iris boutique was being set up. The comings and goings kept us wondering as full boxes went in and empty ones came out. By the time doors opened at 4—no one was allowed even a peek before then—a line was waiting, bursting with curiosity and ready to buy the much coveted iris memorabilia. They were not disappointed. The room was stuffed full of everything from hand-painted thimbles to rare iris books.

The other project was an awe-inspiring "Prairie in Bloom." The base was fashioned from two upright tree trunks, about ten or more feet high. This was in place on Saturday and many wondered what it was. On Sunday three people arrived with buckets and buckets of bloom. Unfortunately, I was unable to find out who they were for they surely deserve a bucket of praise. To the tree trunks they fastened containers to hold water and then filled these with iris bloom

stalks in several shades of purple. More containers at the base of the masterpiece, along with bales of dried prairie grass, tied it all together. Columbines and daisies added colorful contrast and all was softened with the dried grass. The result was a glorious iris tree. It took about three hours to complete. Indeed an awesome project!

In the meantime, in the area of the registration desk, members were displaying a variety of irises. Maxine Perkins and Ben Hager brought spuria seedlings in colors beyond description—blends, selfs in brilliant yellows, whites, blues, purples, bronzes, and browns—each uniquely its own coloration. If I had to pick just one it would probably be S919-4 V.V. Rd. Sg. of Ben Hager's. It was a vivid deep lavender with brilliant yellow haft and markings shading to brown. There were also Japanese iris seedlings from Ben Hager, Dr. Suichi Herao and Jonnye Rich, some named varieties from Melrose Gardens, and a deep wine red Siberian seedling #3137 from Illini Iris.

On Monday the activity pace quickened for now there were meetings scheduled and trying to find the way around the huge hotel complex was a challenge. In late afternoon the official iris show opened in a distant wing. The size of the show amazed me, and it deserved much more time than most of us had. My delight was complete when I saw the miniature arrangement class. Pure joy!

In the evening the welcome banquet officially opened another Convention of eager anticipation. The work and the planning that went into all the pre-convention events as well as what followed showed a love and dedication of the highest degree. Memories will linger for a long time to come. Thank you, Region 21.

OMAHA: A Youth View

Jerry Simmons (California)

The AIS Convention this year in Omaha was the first national convention that I've ever had the opportunity to attend, although I've attended two regionals. The national was different from any other iris meeting I've attended because it was an opportunity to meet other youth members, fellow hybridizers, and to make friends with people across the entire United States and even internationally.

A number of things impressed me about the convention other than the irises. First and foremost were the interesting, open, and caring people. I must have shaken hands with two or three hundred people the first two days alone. Then there was a fabulous boutique that went on the duration of the convention in a special room. I was astounded by the almost endless variety of different types of arts and crafts with irises as their theme. One of the other major works that I noticed was the convention booklet that each attendee received. They were informational, handy, and very well designed for simple reference. The last, but certainly not least, of the things I noticed was the amount of effort put forth by the garden owners to make their gardens

sparkling clean and free from weeds. The irises were well grown in all the gardens, although not all of the west coast varieties looked as good as they do in our area due to the climate difference.

I found the gardens to be educational for me as well as beautiful. The gardens gave me a chance to see Region 21 varieties growing in their home area. Most varieties from that area don't do well in California, so it was good to see which varieties performed well in their home climate. It gave me an opportunity to realize that eastern and midwestern hybridizers weren't introducing substandard things, but that climate was making the difference between how they grow there and how they grow here. That's a valuable lesson for a future judge such as myself to learn.

I think that my only complaint about the entire convention was that I thought the buses left far earlier in the morning than they had to. We finished the tours in the early afternoon, so the buses didn't really have to leave until later. Perhaps that wasn't a problem for others, but I surely had trouble getting up in the morning at 5 A.M. That was a minor problem considering the rest of the convention went without snags as far as I know.

I won't ramble on and on about varieties that I liked in the gardens, but I will mention a few here that I noticed were truly outstanding or unusual. The first is UNION PACIFIC which was a brilliant gold self with rust colored veining in the falls. That was one of the most unusual and pleasant irises at the convention with excellent bud count, good branching, and good increase—it's a must have by Connell Marsh. Other irises that deserve a mention in my mind are: IN TOWN (Blyth '88), MAUVELOUS (Byers '88), TOP GUN (Gaulter '88), CAPTION (Ghio '85), MEMOIRS (Ghio '88), SATIN SATAN (Weiler '86), and McWhirter sdlg. 12-9-16. Aside from those, I must make special note of all of Allan Ensminger's introductions which looked truly spectacular in every convention garden. Almost all of the irises looked great, but those were the ones that I chose as visually appealing that also had excellent bud count, increase, branching, and other characteristics that go into making a truly superior iris.



Tim Stanek and Opal Brown in Sass Garden

Sass Memorial Garden

Clarence Mahan (Virginia)

Omaha was fun! Beautiful irises! Beautiful gardens! Beautiful people! One of the very special highlights of the Omaha convention was the visit to the Sass Memorial Garden. The hybridizing achievements of the Sass brothers, Hans, Peter and Jacob, made our modern-day bearded irises possible. We owe Tim Stanek and the Greater Omaha Iris Society a large debt of gratitude for maintaining this spectacular tribute to two of the greatest iris hybridizers who have ever, or will ever, live. The garden is lovely—excellently designed, expertly planted, and lovingly maintained. It is located on the Air Force base of the Strategic Air Command.

If I had seen nothing else except H.P. Sass Seedling Nr. 1 and Jacob Sass Seedling Nr. 1, the trip to Omaha would have been worth the cost and time. But there was so much else to see. All of the Sass irises and a complete collection of Dykes Medal winners were growing in large clumps. One could easily spend a day here taking in the beauty and come back the following day for more.

In several instances I can truthfully say there were iris cultivars looking better than I have ever seen them. The haunting border bearded JUNGLE SHADOWS, colored in blended brown-gray and purple with brown beards, was magnificent. A Sass iris introduced by Melrose in 1960, this iris is so distinctive that few, if any, of the oldtimers had to look at the label to identify it. MOONLIT SEA, which lent its name to describe a new color pattern, luminata, was spectacular. TIFFANY, ELSA SASS, BALDWIN, BUTO, CLARA NOYES, DANCING WATERS, BALI ROSE, MATULA, JAKE, PINK OPAL, MINNIE COLQUITT, PRAIRIE SUNSET, RAMESES, PORT WINE . . . what names! What irises!

The guest irises, for the most part, were growing well in this garden, though a number of them were not in bloom. Sterling Innerst's seedling 3093-1, although blooming only one flower on a cold-injured stalk, had many buds and captured my attention with its distinctiveness. The flower, appearing to have superb substance and form, is ivory with heavy plum plicata markings on the standards and a narrow band of plum on the falls. The styles are butterscotch backed in mauve-plum. Innerst's INSTRUCTOR (86), creamy and yellow with a blue plic edge on the falls, was performing splendidly with many excellent stalks. Beside it, POINT MADE (Innerst, 88) was also putting on a spectacular show. POINT MADE's stalks and good bud count and placement are frequently missed because its unique bronze standards and white falls speckled in plum demand so much attention. CODICIL (85) was, as always, showing excellently.

Monty Byers's EGYPTIAN (88), a space-age iris, has tan standards and white falls edged in reddish purple, and the yellow-orange beards are tipped with violet horns . . . it was performing nicely. The star Byers iris, however, was

MAGIC KINGDOM (89) which a number of people on my tour bus raved over . . . Monty says it has "light orange standards infused pinkish in centers; brownish violet falls with silvery centers and orange hafts; red-orange beard and long, smooth, silvery white horns." This is as good a description as any, I guess. The substance is exceptional and the blooms are like none other you have ever seen. The word I used in my notes was "fantastic!" Space-agers are now truly as excellent as any others.

PAINTED PLIC (Ensminger, 83) was displayed here, as in several other gardens, in a splendid clump in full bloom. MARIA TORMENA (Ensminger, 87) is a nice approach to a pink "variegated" flower with splashes and streaks of violet and a bright red beard. But nothing in the Omaha gardens was as bright a red as the Ensminger IB MORNING SHOW (88), which was growing perhaps a bit tall here, but with extraordinary beauty. It is a marvel . . . how anyone could stand not having this iris is beyond me.

Although only a couple of flowers were open on Francis Rogers' ISLAND SONG, they were very nice flowers, indeed. Clear blue standards and white falls awash with purple plicata markings . . . quite elegant! Lynda Miller's 1988 introduction AT DAWN was putting on a class act . . . it is a lovely bitone lemony yellow with a nice texture and good substance.

There was a beautiful clump of that Oklahoma dazzler LATIN HIDEAWAY (Nichols 86) in bloom. This is, of course, the nicest approach to a red amoena around . . . real quality, and seemingly a great performer just about everywhere. Hooker Nichols' FRANCIS ANDERSON (88) was looking nice with violet standards, maroon falls and gold beards. There is a nice finish on the flowers of this iris. The lovely ruffled salmon pink border bearded LENORA PEARL (Nichols, 90), a rebloomer in Nebraska, was one I was on the lookout for . . . it is a "must get" for me as soon as I can make room.

The Omaha convention and the lovely Omaha gardens will be in our memories for many years to come. Of course, if my memory keeps deteriorating at the rate it has for the past couple of years it may be totally gone by the time of 1991 convention in Washington, D.C. There were several seedlings I saw in Omaha that I'm definitely not going to forget: Eveleyn Kegerise's beautiful brown 83-401-1 (a first class brown TB hybridized in the east—will wonders never cease!); Schreiner's S351-1, a clean dark purple with the smoothest textured sheen ever seen by human eyes; Innerest's glorious 2187-13, with light yellow standards and white falls edged in sunshine—on marvelous stalks; and Aitken's 83T22A, a lovely blue rebloomer. When these irises are named and introduced my check will be in the mail!

Sass Memorial Iris Garden

Walter A. Moores (Mississippi)

Set amid the cacophony of jet aircraft taking off from Offutt Air Force Base and the din of talkative irisarians, the Sass Memorial Garden at Bellevue, a suburb of Omaha, beckoned us on the first day of the tour of the 1990 AIS Convention.

This garden's primary purpose is the preservation and protection of the iris cultivars introduced by the Sass brothers of Nebraska whose contributions dating from the 1920's include 373 introductions, among them four Dykes medalists. A secondary purpose in 1990 is that it is the setting of our current hybridizers' best efforts. The juxtaposition of these two periods of hybridizing shows the remarkable progress in clarity of color and flower form over the years. PINK SATIN (Jacob Sass-1930) is a good example of how far we have come with pink irises, for PINK SATIN is lavender, not pink. A complete collection of the Dykes medalists is here also, initiating much comment and comparison.

Tending this garden is the youthful Tim Stanek, a personable gentleman quite knowledgeable of the Sass heritage. He has profited from his experience as caretaker with a promising seedling which awed everyone. 85-1 (Laced Cotton X Storm Warning) is not representative of either parent but rather outstanding in its own right. Tim describes 85-1 as "a pastel blue, greenish-yellow bicolor with a gold rim as the flower ages." Although Tim didn't mention it, I found it pleasingly fragrant. This iris was performing even better at Boys Town.

The Sass Memorial Garden is well planned. The overall garden is a perfect square. In the middle is an octagon shaped bed surrounded with thirty-two trapezoidal beds all raised and edged with railroad ties.

Donovan Albers' CIRCUS JEWEL, '88, (coming from Mystique X Earl of Essex), is an excellent white and violet-purple striped plicata which has already rebloomed in mild climates.

Monty Byers' MAGIC KINGDOM, '89, is a blended bicolor in pinkish-orange and brownish-violet with petaloids extending upward from the beards in supplication saying, "Please buy me and take me home!"

Allan Ensminger's introductions at Sass would later win, place, and show in the balloting that came later. MORNING SHOW, '88, would win the President's Cup. It is a polished red intermediate that could not be faulted at Sass but was overgrown at Boys Town. MARIA TORMENA, '87, a phlox pink splashed darker pansy violet, would place, and JAZZABELL, '88, would show with an amoena plicata pattern sporting a solid violet band obviously inherited from BOURREE, created by Connell Marsh, a fellow Nebraskan.

Sterling Innerst's irises seem to fare well all over the country. Watch for his 3093-1, a greenish-yellow, orchid plic. CODICIL, '85, FLUENT, '87, and INSTRUCTOR, '86, make for perfection in color variety, but POINT MADE, '88, a

brownish-purple variegata plicata, is something special with its unique color combination, faultless form, and exemplary growth habits.

Jim McWhirter has introduced *ROLE MODEL*, '88, for Don Denney. It is a rosy pink, melon pink, and tan blend—different and very pretty with excellent branching.

Hooker Nichols' irises were profuse at Sass. His *FRANCIS ANDERSON*, '89, is a bicolor of lilac and maroon red. There was only one stalk in the clump here at Sass, but elsewhere there were more. It is an exciting color. *LATIN HIDEAWAY*, '86, with eight stalks in the clump showed why it was the winner of the President's Cup in Oklahoma City two years ago. The color was clear and breathtaking. *LENORA PEARL*, '90, a true pink border, not pushed out of class like so many others in Omaha, has the proclivity of repeating bloom, certainly a worthy attribute. *WAY OUT WEST*, '90, is a golden yellow peppered all over in brown. The color glows.

Dave Niswonger's *CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE*, '87, is the ultimate in his pink amoena lines—perfect flower, perfect branching, perfect clump—bound for stardom.

To the other hybridizers with outstanding irises at the Sass Memorial Iris Gardens I did not mention, please forgive me. We are allotted just so much space and time.

The Sass Memorial Iris Garden

Jim Browne (Tennessee)

As we got off the bus, the roar of the jets and the iris enthusiasts could be heard. The jets are located next door at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters. The roar of the iris enthusiasts was for the irises blooming in the Sass Memorial Iris Garden, a project of the Greater Omaha Iris Society.

I had the opportunity to see this garden three times during my visit in Omaha. Each time a different set of irises showed up well.

On Sunday before the convention opened, I was charmed by the profusion of bloom among the Sass irises. I haven't seen *DOTTED SWISS* (Henry Sass '56), *AZURITE* (Sass-Plough '59), *TEA APRON* (El Dorado '60) or *BLUE SHIMMER* (Jacob Sass '42) in nearly twenty years. While each variety is a blue plicata, each still has its own sparkling personality! *DOTTED SWISS* with its tall stalks showed off three open blossoms of soft white faintly stitched light blue. *AZURITE*, measuring only 29 inches in height, has smaller flowers each thinly stitched in light sky blue. *TEA APRON*'s deep blue style arms and deeper shades of blue plicating is slightly taller than *AZURITE*. *BLUE SHIMMER* is nearly as tall as *DOTTED SWISS* with more heavily marked deeper blue stitching. Its falls are more narrow.

Other Sass irises blooming well were *GOLDEN HELMET* (J. Sass '33), *PRETTY PANSY* (Sass Brothers '46), *PORT WINE* (H. E. Sass '50), *TIFFANY* (Hans Sass '38), *MOONLIT SEA* (J. Sass '52), *ROSY VEIL* (H. E. Sass '53), *MINNIE COLQUITT* (Hans Sass '41), *MIDWEST* (Hans Sass '23) and *SOUTH-*

LAND (Hans Sass '34). The Dykes Medal winners produced by the Sassses, Hans, Jacob, and Henry, OLA KALA, THE RED DOUGLAS (both Jacob Sass), PRAIRIE SUNSET and RAMASES (both Hans Sass) were all blooming. In addition, I had the opportunity to see THE BLACK DOUGLAS (J. Sass '34), CARNIVAL PARADE (Hans Sass '46) FIRECRACKER, and TIFFANYA also blooming. Just reading through the names of these stalwart varieties brings back endless memories. Look back through the parentage of today's irises and you will find many of these varieties.

This garden also grew well a complete set of Dykes Medal winners. WABASH, always a temperamental bloomer for us, displayed seven bloomstalks, while WHOLE CLOTH produced a clump with 13 stalks. WINTER OLYMPICS produced perfect stalks of 45 inches.

And now to review the newer irises growing in the Sass Memorial Garden

To accomplish this feat, I lined up my slides on a light board where I could review 50 slides at a time. Where clumps were spectacular, I photographed the entire clump. If the flower itself was receiving rave reviews, I took a closeup.

One conclusion was obvious from the floral display at the Sass Garden. Irises from the Midwest and Northeast handled the climate extremely well. Among the well doers were irises from the Sassses, Hooker Nichols, Sterling Innerst, Allan Ensminger, Don Albers, Chuck Claussen, Paul Black, Jack Durrance, and Tom Magee. These irises showed superlative vigor, or perhaps many of the other irises showed a lack of climate adaptability.

Hooker Nichols has a winner with his 1990 introduction MARY ELLEN NICHOLS. Unique and different, this bicolor attains a high water mark with its soft yellow standards atop plum red falls. The falls are bordered with a quarter inch band of pinkish white. The dandelion beards with a slight thin signal of dandelion at the top of the falls and the beard's tip balance the plum red color bleeding up the midribs of the soft yellow standards. The stylearms amplify the ensemble with butter yellow stylecrests highlighted at their bases with plum red.

For its mouth-watering colors, IMPRESSIONIST (Ghio 88) displayed standards of a pink amber confection atop claret rose falls emblazoned with a vertical line of pink amber below the carrot yellow beards. The same pink amber blend of the stands lines the other edges of the falls. The ruffles of the falls and swirls of the standards complement this beauty.

The iris that caught my attention as I first entered the garden is Cleo Palmer's TWIST OF FATE. A hit at the Tulsa Convention in 1980, this iris has always been in short supply. There is no other iris with any stronger contrast in deep color. Light blue standards flushed with purple sit atop deep, plushy blue black falls. The form is tailored, but the color and height of bloomstalk are both pluses. Nearly 20 years old, this iris is still worth growing for its contrast in color.

Horned irises were also very prominent in this garden. Several of note are GODSEND (Byers '89) and EGYPTIAN (Byers '88). The former is a soft cameo pink self with tangerine beards with violet bushy horns extending from the tangerine to violet beards. The beard appendages turn upward slightly giving a coat hook effect. The latter is a horned modified vari-cata (variegata-plicata). The standards are golden tan flushed purple. The falls are white stippled and stitched purple with yellow beards tipped with prominent red violet horns.

INSTRUCTOR (Innerst '86) with much the same coloration as Egyptian has buckskin tan standards with white bleeding through the midrib area. The falls are starchy, bright white with a uniform spray of rose purple around the outer $\frac{3}{8}$ inches of the falls. The spray pattern becomes darker toward the edge of the petal. There is a thin line of rose purple extending from the beard's tip bisecting the sparkling white ground color of the falls. The veining of the hafts is neatly trimmed with rose purple around the tan buff beards. A glow of tannish yellow surrounds the beards at the hafts.

PISTOL (Claussen '83) displayed 23 open blossoms and nearly as many bloom stalks on two year clumps. This iris is a light to medium lavender blue self with a violet flush permeating the center of the flower. Its vigor and floriferousness make it a good garden iris.

MORNING SHOW (Ensminger '88) was my choice from the beginning as best in region variety. It performed well everywhere I saw it. It produces numerous bloomstalks with excellent bud count. An intermediate bearded of glowing garnet to cardinal red, it charmed many convention delegates to garner the President's Cup. Oddly, it is an offspring of SDB and Intermediate Bearded parentage, a rarity. Perhaps, this is what makes this iris so special!

It is exciting to see COTTON CARNIVAL (K. Mohr '81). This iris variety was released to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Cotton Carnival in Memphis. Many visitors will remember the fireworks on the Mississippi River during the 1977 Memphis Convention. This display was part of the city's annual observance of Cotton Carnival.

Lastly, let me thank Tim Stanek for maintaining the Sass Memorial Iris Garden and to the garden owners and committee members who work so hard to put on a great convention. And finally, thank you Henry and Opal for hours of work!

Ensminger's Varigay Garden

James McWhirter (California)

This garden was the last garden I visited at the 1990 Omaha Convention, and it was an excellent one to end with. Although the day was overcast and even a little misty, the glorious color that greeted us when departing the bus was overwhelming.

And even if we thought the color was going to be enough, the 75 foot row of AZ AP (Ensminger 80) was in full bloom to greet us a second time. The noise from the cameras capturing this spectacular sight was enough to keep all insects away. Truly a sea of bloom that will long be remembered.

As most people who visit this exceptional garden know, Allan separates his seedling beds by year, giving the visitor a chance to see the progressions from generation to generation. He is working on so many different things, TBs, Medians, variegated foliage, etc. that we really didn't have enough time to see the many new and different things that are coming out of this garden.

Before I relate what irises were doing well, it must be said that the entire Ensminger garden is very well maintained, and the setting with the lovely house and adjacent buildings add such a nice touch for those touring the garden.

The guest plantings here were well grown and provided each conventioneer with plenty to see and to take notes about. We will begin here with what was outstanding on the day that I was fortunate enough to be there.

SONJA'S SELAH (Ensminger '88), Blooming behind AZ AP, this beautiful row of pale pink standards topping falls of apricot was almost as much a hit as AZ AP. A truly new refined color combination on a nicely formed flower.

MORNING SHOW (Ensminger '88) IB. A ruby red color with flair and personality was in perfect bloom in the area where the introductions were planted. A near perfect IB which later went on to win the President's Cup.

GO AROUND (Mary Dunn '83) TB. A very impressive clump of this iris was in full bloom showing off the perfect form and the advancement in this rounded plicata art form in light blue on white.

BLUE EYED BLONDE (Ensminger '90) IB. A perky little flower with golden color to greet you and a blue beard to cause pause.

WILLOW WARE (Ensminger '90) IB. Clear white standards topping falls of purple adding a little class to this color class in the IBs.

Jack Durrance Seedling #D80-16A (BB). A real advancement in the red class no matter what classification—the most smooth mahogany red color with very nice form. Not a mark anywhere. Great things will come from this breeding.

In the reblooming beds one found CANDY LANE (BB) Byers. Standards of pale apricot with falls of apricot showing a very pleasing color combination with a flower of advanced form.

ORANGE HARVEST (B. Jones) TB. This must be mentioned for the color, ORANGE, ORANGE, ORANGE; and topped off with bright tangerine beards. This will be noticed for the color alone.

INTO THE NIGHT (Schreiners '89) TB. This eyecatcher of a bitone purple combination looked good all through the day as well.

OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE (Schreiners '89) TB. The combination of salmon standards over falls of magenta with a cherry influence sporting a stripe down the middle is showy and does garner attention.

STEP AHEAD (V. J. Craig) IB. A blue violet, outstanding for its color and elegant form.

HISSY FIT (Innerst) IB. A glorious color combination of marigold yellows and reds, with brown flecks on the underside of the standards. This color duo will receive attention in the future.

EVER GREEN (J. Ames) TB. Well, here we are getting closer to the green iris that some people will probably like—probably the greenest I have seen.

KAREN CHRISTINE (Ensminger '85) TB. A pinkish mauve with blue tones was in excellent bloom at the base of the garage.

In the seedling plantings, there was a presence of the variegated foliage that Allan is working on, and one would see many many markers showing that they would be kept for further breeding. The garden effect is most notable.

The bloom here was excellent, providing all iris lovers views of things past, things present, and of things to come. And yes, a red, white and blue iris was found in the seedling areas and probably everyone who saw it pointed it out to Allan to make sure that he had not missed it. HE HADN'T.

Thank you Allan and Gladys for a truly delightful addition to the 1990 Omaha Convention. Many of us will want to return many times in the future to see your work.

Wulf's Backachers

Barbara Schmieder (Massachusetts)

The first garden one sees at a national convention usually sets the tone for the entire convention—there is an excitement, a feeling of anticipation as you get off the bus and see your first irises. The Wulf garden was certainly a great garden to start with for a first impression as the spacious lay-out afforded plenty of room for people to move about without feeling crowded. Entry was through a chain link fence at a corner of the house and this corner was planted with columbine, shasta daisies, alchemilla, and a big clump of the Ensminger IB AZ AP. The convention plantings inside the fence were not yet at peak, but there was so much to look at in the older, established plantings that it was difficult to see everything in the time allotted.

Among the convention guest plants, I got my first look at Jim Hummel's TASSELLENA, a nice orange with a white blaze on the falls and a deep orange beard. It was seen in several gardens and looked good enough in all of them to get my vote for the President's Cup. Another interesting Hummel iris

I noted was TIDE MARK, a mid purple plicata with a purple streak going from the end of the orange beard to the edge of the fall. Terry Aitken had several good irises in bloom. CRANBERRY CRUSH, a ruffled two-tone light violet and deep red violet with a gorgeous sheen on the falls, got my vote for the Franklin Cook Cup. Terry's GYRO and STELLAR LIGHTS were also performing well. Barry Blyth's IN TOWN made me happy that I had been high bidder for it at the Region 1 auction last summer. Other conventioners must have liked it too, as the blue and purple bi-color with orange beards was first runner-up to the Franklin Cook Cup winner. I liked Franklin Carr's FLAMING SUN—gold standards, rusty red plicata border and streaks on falls. Mary Dunn's DIVINE always draws attention—the standards are white and the violet blue falls are accented with a white spot and white beard. Pinks appeal to me and Joe Gatty's PRESENCE is a particularly nice ruffled mauve pink with a coral beard. I'm also partial to whites with dark blue beards, and Joseph Hoage's seedling H30-3E is certainly a leading candidate for top honors in this color class. Keith Keppel's SEAPORT looked very good—light blue standards, white falls with deep violet plicata edging. THRILLER (Schreiners) wasn't open yet but, with 8 well branched stalks, showed that it is a good grower (glad I ordered it!)

In the non-guest beds, there was much bloom and, being a median nut, I was particularly drawn to the MTBs planted against the side of the house near the patio (Maybe the proximity of the refreshment table was part of the attraction!) Anyway, ROSEMARY'S DREAM (Dunderman) was putting on a spectacular show, with CANDYLANE (D. Guild) also looking nice. There was an all Ensminger bed, with JAZZABEL (TB) a standout. Gene Gaddie's IB, FROM THE HEART, looked great in a clump. It is almost white (palest blue) with white beards and blue haft markings that make a nice pattern. I was glad to see Joe Ghio's NURSERY SCHOOL (BB) growing in class—here, it is too tall but the flower size is just right, and it is a lovely peach with many buds and excellent branching.

The Wulfs are to be congratulated on having a wonderful convention garden and for co-chairing an excellent convention. Not too many people would attempt both but—wait—Opal is also RVP for Region 21! Did someone say that Superwoman is from Nebraska?!

Wulf's Backachers

Virginia Hodges (Texas)

Everyone was graciously greeted by the Wulf's darling daughter, Karen Rooney, and her husband who were dressed in old fashioned western attire. Phil even wore holsters with six shooters.

We entered the colorful garden through a gate which was surrounded by perennials and an iris named MAIN GATE. AZ AP in full bloom amazed us! The terraced garden was brilliant; certainly it was nothing like a prairie. Eye

catching garden ornaments were strategically placed. The deer family was adorable.

Opal chose to be photographed by a profusely blooming clump of last year's winner, LATIN HIDEAWAY. Hank was by an old favorite, MOON-STRUCK, in the east bed with many good reliable irises the Wulf's have kept.

Some of the best guest varieties were: ACOMA (Tom Magee), TIDE MARK (Jim Hummel), JAZZEBEL (Ensminger), PRESENCE (Gatty), WINDSONG WEST (Nichols), BROADWAY REVIEW (Nichols 90) LURID (M. Byers), LOVER'S DREAM (Keppel), and FLUENT (Innerst) which I graded A+.

All the medians were at peak. Two outstanding seedlings were Virginia Messick's 85-9 with lavender purple stands and yellow green falls with a lavender beard and Nichols' 8825 AI with yellow standards, falls edged yellow, and lighter under yellow beards and orange in the heart.

Those MTB's on the east were lovely, but time ran out before I could examine them closely.

Delicious refreshments were served by hostesses dressed in authentic period garments. The full length cape and bonnet were so becoming.

Those unique iris decorated cowbells worn by the Wulfs were something else to remember.

In addition to being wonderful convention chairpersons, their four acres of beauty prove them to be superb gardeners although she laughingly said "Weeds in my garden mean a clean house."

Boys' Town

David G. Miller (Colorado)

What a wonderful setting for a master planting! Father Flanagan would have been as proud as the convention committee to have such a display on his neat-as-a-pin grounds. One good thing about being called upon to write about the master planting is the wide range of irises available to see.

I'd like to start with the ones that can be so easily overlooked, the MTB's. Ken Fisher's STRIPED PANTS (89), CAROL LEE (89), and LUCKY CHARM (86) are all of the same vein so to speak. All have the same light brown standards and each has a different shade of red brown falls, from light to dark, respectively. OZARK SKY (Fisher 90) is a nice light blue as is LILAC TORQUE (Dorothy Guild 89) but her little JAZZ MAN really had me dancing. It's dressed in red with a yellow beard. Bee Warburton's TYKE (86) was cute with white standards and dark blue stitched falls. The MTB that I was most taken with is Fisher's L1 with light bronze standards and white stitched bronze falls.

When it comes to the IB's and BB's, several can really put on a show. Hooker Nichols' pink BB LENORA PEARL (90), HELGA'S HELMET, a white IB, and ROYAL GOSSIP, a royal blue IB plicata are fine examples, but I liked his SPACE PSALMS (90) the best. It's a flaring mid blue plicata IB that makes me want to sing for joy. If you're a Poker player, two pairs would make a decent hand. How about a pair of oranges and a pair of blues? SUNNY DAWN

(Bennett Jones 89) IB and OBLIGATO (Hal Stahly 88) IB combined with AZ AP (Ensminger 80) IB and look alike KARL SCHAEFER (Myrtle Wolff) BB fill the hand. I didn't notice anything to make a full house, but LADY DAY, a flaring white IB of Carol Lankow's, would make a good wild card. There were two that stepped to the head of the classes. MORNING SHOW is a nice red IB of Ensminger's that also happened to win the President's Cup for best in the Region over first runner-up AZ AP. MISS NELLIE (Burch 83) is a BB with greyed yellow standards and red-violet edged light violet falls. It finished as the second runner-up for the Cook Cup.

MORNING SHOW and MISS NELLIE might be at the head of the class, but RUSTLER (Keppel 88) was certainly acting as the headmaster. Keith's description calls it "russet amber standards, glossy henna rust falls narrowly edged paler, beards yellow orange." Yes, but I'd like to call it a "bright" brown if that's possible. At any rate, it certainly has a garden presence that made it the Cook Cup winner. Another very attractive rich brown with a slight yellow overlay and orange red beard is Evelyn Kegerise's 83-401. The first runner-up to Rustler for the Cook Cup also has good garden presence: IN TOWN (Barry Blyth 88) has light blue standards, velvety purple falls, and a red beard all on a flared ruffled form. Quite attractive, as were many other TB's like Terry Aitken's STELLAR LIGHTS (86), blue with a white throat and his CRANBERRY CRUSH (86) makes me hungry for turkey and dressing. His blue 85T70 (now named FLY WITH ME) combined with Tom Magee's wide blue SKY SAILS (85) *almost* had me signing up for hang gliding lessons. RAVEN ROCK (Franklin Carr 87) was a nice purple and SUCCESS STORY (Ghio 87) has clean colors with light blue standards and violet falls. Other blues that caught my eye were GLORY STORY (Weiler 88), 83-84 (Eleanor Kegerise), and 87-5 (Stahly), all well branched. Several whites caught my eye. FROSTY FRILLY (Mel Bausch 86), SUMMER WHITE (Francis Rogers 84) and BRIDAL FASHION (Weiler 86). If you would prefer a yellow, take a look at bright and sunny SUNDAY SUNSHINE (Rick Ernst 87), more gold TEMPLE TULARE (Chris Vizvarie 88) or my favorites GOLDEN VELVET (Weiler 88) and KATIE LYNN (Evelyn Kegerise 86). WISE RULER (Nichols) and HARVEST QUEEN (Quadros 88) were both a buttered toast light brown yellow blend but the Queen is more *buxom* than the Ruler. Speaking of buxom Queens, how about SHEBA'S QUEEN (Bernice Miller 88) or PARTY QUEEN (Lynda Miller)? Both are well branched reds. Sheba's was very tall and smooth, while Party was listed as a BB but more like a TB from my point of view. In case you're wondering, neither Bernice nor Lynda is related to me. I'm not sure I could call many a true pink, but MARIA TORMENA (Ensminger 87) is an unusual smoky pink and light purple streaker pattern that really torments me—in a pleasing fashion. MEMOIRS (Ghio 88) is a toasted peach with tangerine beards while TOP GUN (Larry Gaulter 88), a pink and rose bitone and ADOBE ROSE (Ernst 88) with light apricot standards and mauve rose falls all were very attractive, as was Aitken's orange with a red beard, 82T19.

Some of the plicatas of today are certainly interesting. STERLING STITCH (Innerst) and ACOMA (Magee 90) both are light blue and white while HOT

STREAK (Ghio 88) and STRING MUSIC (George Slade 88) are both brown with yellow grounds. Keppel's BODACIOUS (87) is an apricot ground, and his JITTERBUG (88) makes my eyes jittery trying to keep up in chrome yellow with red peppering. TENNISON RIDGE (Jim Begley 89) and RASPBERRY FUDGE (Keppel 89) have a most pleasing raspberry color that had me searching for a bucket and heading for the raspberry patch. Last but not least, there are a couple of irises that I have trouble putting into a color classification, but both need to be mentioned. FARAWAY PLACES (Keppel 88) a dark rose with apricot overlay and CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE (Niswonger 87) with light buff pink standards and apricot falls are both good garden plants.

Father Flanagan, what did you like best? Can anyone else see that twinkle in his eye?

Boys' Town

Bill Rinehart (California)

May 22, 23, and 24 of 1990 were neither the "worst of times" nor the "best of times" to observe irises in eastern Nebraska. None of us should pass judgment on the willingness of the Lord, but somewhere it would seem "a creek did rise" and bloom at Boys' Town was just beginning when the National Convention was in session.

Originally, Boys' Town, now coed, was a home for neglected boys. It has evolved into the model for institutions of similar mission. The facilities on what was once Overlook Farm grace an arboreal campus which though teeming with troubled youth is serene, and safe. Neglect is stricken from all vocabularies.

It was to these lawns that Regions 21's Roger Mazur was able to bring a Master Planting of over 1,000 Guest Irises. Here beds were carefully "Mazured" and for three years dutifully maintained by local volunteers. This care was evident and the voices of the visiting firemen were heard not in complaint re: the minimal bloom, but in compassion for the hosts.

The biggest draw for the early visitors to Boys Town on Tuesday, April 22, was the refreshment pavilion where coffee and cookies "made by the boys with plenty of chocolate bits just the way they themselves liked them" served to modify the disappointing discovery that the predominant color in the iris beds was green.

The odds favored a greater percentage of bloom among the medians than with the TBs and form proved to prevail. Gaining the most favorable attention among a limited number of scapes were:

WELCH'S REWARD (W. Welch/E. Hall '88) an appealing MTB with yellow (not gamboge, chrome or gold) stands over deep red-purple falls precisely edged with the same clean color of the standards. Adding attraction, not the potential distraction, are white hafts deftly veined bright red-purple.

AEGEAN WALTZ (Nichols '87) is a very together red-violet plicata border bearded cultivar. This floriferous, full-flowered beauty is consistently appropriate for the class.

LENORA PEARL (Nichols '90) is catalogued as a ruffled salmon-pink self with hot orange beards. In Southern California as well as Omaha, the pink appears more in the Rudolph blue-pink mode. However, the beholder sees it, this remontant border bearded warrants wide distribution. With a host of buds beginning to show color to back up the stalks in bloom, this clump had to be sensational by the weekend. Hooker has a winner here.

IN 85-7-1 (B. Jones) is a fetching lemon-yellow intermediate with a deeper yellow-gold bib. This is a full-bearded fellow of even brighter yellow.

Before the cacaphony of whistles split the silence there was just time for a quick foray to the refreshment tables and a quicker reconnoiter of the TBs. Of these, one, which was inadvertently not revisited on Thursday, deserves mention:

UNION PACIFIC (C. Marsh), with no date of introduction listed, is a tightly ruffled seedling with a pattern unique among the recent TB introductions. Short cinnamon rays radiate under a bright orange beard. These are laid upon rich yellow which is uniform over all petals without the white which commonly accompanies striped hafts. Sadly, buds pressed close along the stem in this instance. Hopefully, this is not characteristic of this charming cultivar.

It is written that the "first shall be last" and so it was at Boys' Town. The first stop on Tuesday became the last stop on Thursday. As the bus passed the identifying pylon at the gate, a satisfied sigh was felt more than heard. Dead ahead under the sheltering trees an aura of rainbow colors danced along the ridge. There was bloom at Boys' Town.

ACOMA (T. Magee '90) two years a guest in West Hills, California has become a personal favorite of those who have been its host: overlapping, upright stands of palest sky blue, flaring desert white falls peppered at the edges with light violet and tracked with paths of fading violet across the petal to the edge.

ERIN MARIE (C. Clausen '89) a short tall, if the class existed, is a gleaming white with cast and veins of green and a soft lemon yellow beard. Tightly ruffled and beautifully proportioned. Probably Chuck's best for form.

FRIZZY LIZZY (J. Weiler '89) a border of deep orange is distinctive for its "crinkle-ruffled" falls and domed, closed stands. Does not threaten to out-grow class in southern California as many borders do.

IN TOWN (Blyth '88) is the latest (Gallant Rogue '90 has amber and lilac blended stands) in Barry's red-bearded neglecta line and by far the most finished. Though a slightly smaller flower than in California, it fulfilled its potential in all other aspects and was a many flowered clump in several gardens. The runnerup for the Cook Cup and just maybe the rightful winner.

JOLT (J. Weiler '88) is named for the intensity of the orange petals. Slightly paler under the beards (approaching yellow).

KATIE GIRL (F. Rogers '88) is a lovely bicolor in rose-pink and rich red-violet. Very nice, tightly ruffled petals and good form. Appears to be a better iris than Francis' CHIPPEWA BRAVE which was popular in Oklahoma City. "For all things there is a season."

MARIA TORMENA (A. Ensminger '87) is the first variegated pink iris. The pink in these Nebraska gardens uniformly carried more "lint-blue" than seen elsewhere. Variable splashes of white and pansy violet on a nicely finished flower make this a must have for the legions of Varigay fans.

MEMOIRS (J. Ghio '88) is a perfectly formed flower attired in shades of stucco favored by architects in the Southwest. Whether dusty rose or toasted peach, it is both different and appealing.

ROYAL GOSSIP (Nichols) is a seedling IB in a dusky red-purple plicata pattern. The name suggests that the open stands may be typical. Is this another Vanity child? A nice iris if this is not a problem.

RUSTLER (Keppel '88) a rose-amber and henna velvet bitone simply is one of the best of the recent introductions. Its tremendous appeal carried it to the Cook Cup even though showing fewer stalks and flowers (to occupants of the blue buses anyway) than the runnerup.

STERLING STITCH (S. Innerst '84) guested in the 1985 Region 15 Spring meeting is steadily becoming popular in southern California. This exposure should create wider distribution for this fine blue-purple plicata.

J-29/9 (Stadler) is a median pattern on a tall-bearded flower. Ruffled golden-yellow petals are imprinted at the hafts by fingers rolled on a pad of brown ink. Nothing like it in this class. When will this be introduced? Inquiring minds want to know!

The Lincoln/Omaha corridor in eastern Nebraska called the infant interest in irises in the United States. The Boys' Town beds with the Sass Memorial Garden institutionalize recognition of these pioneers. Schliefferts, Varigays et al contemporize this heritage. Irisarians are grateful to the leaders of Region 21 who opted to share this legacy, and did so with a warm and nurturing kind of hospitality that leaves an indelible feeling of well-being. Many thanks!

Bumble Bee Gardens

Ethel Baukus (Wisconsin)

Those on the blue buses found, quite some distance from the hotel, the second stop of the day, the Bumble Bee Garden of Jim and Vera Hummel at Wayne, Nebraska. Imagine our surprise at being welcomed by the Mayor of Wayne! Vera Hummel welcomed us to Wayne and the .46" of rain that had fallen. Luckily, it had stopped as we arrived.

Bumble Bee Gardens is an example of sharing irises. Jim and a neighbor shared hybrid irises for his digging and division of the plants. The friend called irises the "friendship flower" because they are meant to be shared.

The Hummel's son, Jay, started the hybridizing that has grown to 1500 seedlings each year.

The garden was named for the family coat-of-arms which shows a bee in flight and from the race to beat the bee to the newly opened iris flowers.

Jim is a director of admissions at Wayne State College where Vera is an instructor in the business division when they're not promoting the school of irises.

This garden showed the care it was given. The iris fans were perfectly groomed and a fine example of the blue green leaves which set off the buds just waiting to open. The beds were outlined with timbers. Every bed was lettered at the northwest corner and numbered around to the southwest corner. This made it very easy to locate a particular iris. Each bed had either a "Bumble Bee" as a marker or an inch worm. These added to the theme. An iris flag flew on the flag pole and black and yellow banners surrounded the garden fence. There was no mistaking which garden one was in!

As we walked through the beds and read the tags, Vera remarked that this was "a branching and foliage display with no beautiful flowers to distract." This would have been an excellent place to hold a judging school for horticultural perfection.

To make up for the lack of bloom, an antique sale was set up for the visitors featuring jewelry, linens, kitchenware, etc. for sale. Several bed spreads were on the fence for display.

As we sat on the bus preparing for our departure, the mayor hopped on to thank everyone for coming to visit and to convey the hope that we would return some day. I, for one, would like to return just to visit Jim and Vera and their iris garden. The lack of bloom in this garden didn't matter. Their tender, loving care showed the pride they have in our favorite flower.

Both the bank and the college in Wayne had signs welcoming the AIS.



Iris flag at Bumblebee Gardens

Bumblebee Gardens

Gary Sides (Tennessee)

I had looked forward to visiting the garden of Jim and Vera Hummel at the convention ever since my visit to Wayne three years ago the spring before Roger Nelson packed up and moved to Oregon that summer. Evidence of much work invested for the convention at Bumblebee Gardens was apparent to all visitors, and I'm sure no one was more disappointed than Jim and Vera. Disappointed because the TB's were only beginning to bloom and the majority of the plants were TB.

In spite of the lack of bloom, Jim and Vera were delightful hosts using their imagination to keep us occupied while we were there. A quilt show, craft and antique sale, crocheted items and tablecloths were displayed to be enjoyed. Other points of interest were the fenced in bumblebee with wishing well and water pump where the seedlings were growing and iris windsocks along with others in bumblebee and Wayne University colors of black and gold. The orange juice and cinnamon cake were delightful also.

This was a good time to take a look at how plants were performing and compare how this and that variety looked in the garden when actively growing. The immaculately clean beds with virtually no leaf spot provided an excellent opportunity to judge the merits of two-year clumps. Stalks were evident in almost all varieties. Bed design facilitated ease of viewing with 24 x 4 foot beds and double rows for the tall bearded with proportionately smaller beds for the medians.

This was the garden where MORNING SHOW (Ensminger '88) made a hit with me. It is an IB of candied apple red that is quite showy, obviously, since it won the President's Cup. Other medians which caught my eye were: 85-1, Harder (IB) in brown shades; BALKANA BABY (Boswell 87) (SDB); CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE (Jeffries 89); PEOPLE PLEASER (Ensminger 82) (SDB) varigated, and performing nicely in other places also; LEPRECHAUN EYE-LASH (Boswell 89), SDB, yellow with darker hafts and blue tipped beards; and last but not least AZ AP (Ensminger 80) (IB) varigated and very showy. TB's that were blooming included: INSTRUCTOR (Innerst 85) varigata-plic with falls stitched in bright blue having 5 stalks and well branched as usual and having 2 blooms open and SEA WOLF (Aitken 85) in dark velvety purple with two stalks and 8 buds each.

Conventions are hard work for garden owners and planners that are subject to the vagaries of Mother Nature. We should all be appreciative of folks willing to risk failure for our pleasure and enjoyment. Thanks, Omaha, for a wonderful Convention 1990!

Maple Tree Garden

Mrs. Walter A. Machulak (Wisconsin)

When the Harder family started to homestead their land a maple tree was one of the first things they planted. Many years later this same tree would inspire young Larry Harder. In the early 1960's Mr. Harder was searching for a name to use on the iris price list he planned to print. In the area was the Maple Valley Garden of Agnes and Charles Whiting, and near Omaha was the famous Sass Garden on Maple Road. So to continue the "maple pattern," Harder remembered the old maple tree and called his garden Maple Tree Garden.

Wanting to grow something unique that would complement the garden name, he planted a variegated Norway maple tree which now greets all who enter this garden. Another novelty for the area is the large redbud tree found growing next to the house. It is rare to find any redbuds this far north, as the natural habitat is only as far north as Omaha along the Missouri River. It may rank as one of the largest trees in the state, as the redbuds usually grow in shrub-like fashion. On the east side of the garden is a deciduous evergreen—a European larch whose needles, in spring, are ever so soft. Larry said that the two extremely dwarfed Alberta spruce in the garden were probably 60 years old. They join ranks with other dwarf evergreens in this garden.

Larry is thankful for the plant orders which come to Maple Tree Garden. The profits enable him to purchase \$225 daylilies, though the average is \$100 per plant. Conventioneers were privileged to view a peony bush, Yellow Heaven, valued at \$200; however, as yet it was not in bloom at convention time.

The garden has been in existence for 20 years. Harder was the original planner, and he continues to add to his collection of plants yearly. The garden proper occupies about a quarter of a city block, with the commercial garden planted on the farm of Harder's brother. When asked how many kinds of irises he grows, Harder replied, "Lots of each, but most are at the farm. There may be 250-300 different irises in the town garden plus another couple of hundred of other types. I don't count them. It is hard enough just keeping records of them all." A listing, in extremely fine print, of irises in Maple Tree Garden was a lengthy eight pages. This did not include the guest plant listing.

Harder's job with the Federal Government as local manager for the Farmer's Home Administration takes up the greatest part of his time. Add to that, the job of historian for The American Iris Society. He also belongs to numerous plant organizations "to keep up on what is new." Besides belonging to all the iris societies and sections, he belongs to the North American Lily Society, American Peony Society, International Lilac Society, American Daylily Society, American Horticulture, NAGS (Gladiola Society), American Rock Garden Society, American Daffodil Society, Royal Horticultural Society, Scottish Rock Garden Society, Pacific Horticulture, Perennial Association and the Hardy

Plant Society. He is also a member of the Plantsman, Dwarf Conifer, Sempervivum, Geranium, Begonia and Orchid Societies.

And to keep him out of trouble during spare moments Larry also hybridizes irises, daylilies, and some peonies. He has introduced three tall bearded irises, three standard dwarfs, one intermediate and one Siberian. He partakes in iris shows and has won Queen of Show.

The intermediates are Larry's favorite irises because he says in the garden they have the impact of the tall bearded and the many bloom stalks of the standard dwarfs, but they hardly ever fall over.

Like every iris grower Harder has his share of problems, the most troublesome being scorch. However, he does not baby them through the progression of the disease. His program of seasonal care consists of an application of general flower fertilizer in early spring followed by a foliar feeding later. This is the general program for all plants grown in Maple Tree Garden. Weeds are controlled by chemicals especially for this purpose.

Some of Harder's favorite tall bearded irises that do well are CELESTIAL STORM, CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE, SILVERADO and LATIN HIDEAWAY. He believes everyone should grow JEWELLED CROWN (Sib.), COURT MAGICIAN (SDB), ORIENTAL BABY and RARE TREAT (IB's), PURE ALLURE (TB), PINKEVA and EVENING IN BAGDAD (Ar) and *i. Tectorum* (species).

It rained an inch or more the night before we were to visit the Harder garden. That didn't dampen the spirits of the conventioners as the motorcade of buses was escorted through town by the police in squad cars. As people disembarked the buses, they were cordially greeted by Mrs. Nebraska, who was standing next to a large planting of a Harder introduction, CHAGRIN (IB), a carmel ruffled bi-tone. From this point on, it was like visiting a botanical garden. Where does one start to describe its beauty?

Do we start with the Weeping Juniper or the Silver Ghost juniper? It is said anyone who attempts to grow the Silver Ghost must be a connoisseur of plants because no one else would attempt such a challenge. How about the tree lilac? It is a dwarf lilac that has been grafted onto a standard lilac. Let us not forget the tree peony over there, and the hosta collection over there. The house plant collection is enjoying its summer quarters outdoors and the Staghorn fern is so large it would fill a washtub. We could begin by describing the begonia collection, one of Larry's favorite collections, or describe the ivy collection. Maybe we could begin by describing the *Anemone Canadensis*, one of the wild flowers of Nebraska.

Maybe we could start by describing the lawn ornaments, the cherubs, the sun dial, the fish pond, or the oak barrels from which a waterfall originated. The window box containing an artistic floral arrangement placed very cleverly on the garden fence might be a good beginning to describe the unusual contents of this garden. But probably the best place to begin would be with the sign on the front door that simply said, "Welcome Friend," because that is what we were, friends who came to enjoy Larry Harder's garden and his irises.

Despite the rain, there were plenty of irises in excellent condition to be seen and enjoyed. ARRANGER'S CHOICE (B. Brown '87) was one of them. A lightly

ruffled medium violet-blue that almost appeared as a dusky-lavender was made more appealing by the darker blaze around the beard. Terry Aitken's MAUI MOONLIGHT '87 (and one of Harder's favorites) was a delightful IB a lightly ruffled bright lemon-yellow self. Another IB, June Rose (Blodgett '89) a colorful, ruffled salmon-pink with a splash of rose on the falls captured many admirers. A classic dark violet IB was Jim and Vicki Craig's STEP AHEAD '89.

If red is your favorite color, don't miss RED TIME (Dyer '87). This IB with standards of light red and falls of a darker red sports a big yellow beard and it is ruffled, too.

Allan Ensminger pulled another novelty colored iris out of his hybridizing hat in HUBBUB '90, an IB in the purples with interesting markings. AZ AP '80 was blooming its little heart out, a common performance for this hardy iris. Another of his introductions, JOHN '90, has a good combination of colors. The standards remind me of a yummy, rich chocolate bar, the falls are the color of a straw hat. All this made for a striking IB iris.

One of the few Arilbreds in this garden and one that attracted a lot of attention was Lin Flanagan's DESERT SPRING '68. Its standards were a ruffled pale yellow-beige blend, and the falls were a heavily ruffled light yellow-beige blend . . . a rather magical color combination.

An appropriate name was chosen for the iris, FROM THE HEART, an IB of Gene Gaddie '85. The standards are white with a violet-blue glow from the heart radiating up the midrib. The falls are also white with the violet-blue glow from the heart radiating across the hafts. Top this with a white beard and add ruffles.

Another descriptive name for an iris is CRYSTAL RUFFLES (Dunderman '86). This ruffled white MTB has a few light orchid markings at the hafts and a slightly sweet fragrance as an added bonus. Not to be overlooked was JOLLY JIM (Dunderman '87), also a white MTB with a deep orange beard.

Under the lilac bush and rain soaked but still very colorful was HONEY GLAZED (Niswonger '82). This IB had cream standards and amber falls with a gold beard. Another Niswonger introduction that received three stars in my book was GOLDEN MUFFIN '86. This IB has yellow standards, and the falls are of deep amber with a slightly yellow edge topped by a yellow beard. Worthy of introduction was Dave's SDB seedling 29-87.

SUN DOLL (B. Jones '85) was so fresh looking! The ruffled medium-yellow SDB seemed to know it was being admired by all who passed by. An IB seedling IN 85-7-1 also by B. Jones is one we will all have to watch for. All that glitters may not be gold, but it could be an SDB called OREGOLD. With all the brilliance of pure gold, this yellow iris has arched standards that touch at their tips and wide flaring falls of medium yellow that shade to a lighter yellow at the edges. It's a truly brilliant display!

A special favorite of this tour garden host is ASK ALMA (Lankow '87). Harder says, "I love it," and you will too, once you have seen it. This vibrant coral-orange IB has nice form with round, flaring falls . . . a sassy little iris! Another Lankow introduction, MISS RIGHT, should not be overlooked. This iris

introduced in 1985 is lemon-yellow and has good form and proportion for an IB. It is just a real neat flower!

The Hooker Nichols hybridizing skills were well displayed in this garden. A tall bearded iris called Broadway Review '88 was artistically displaying ruffled creamy yellow-white blooms. This one is sure to perform before a live audience. MASTER SLEUTH '88 is an IB displaying standards of white stitched in blue and white with a marbled blue coloration on the falls, complemented by a blue beard. MISTY REFLECTIONS is an iris of a common color combination, a light blue bitone, but it has charm of its own. Displaying its colors proudly, it quickly won everyone's admiration. Two more of Hooker's irises caught the eye. One was SPACE PSALMS '88, an IB with ruffled standards of grayed-purple and a wash of white in the center with white falls edged in grey-purple. The other Nichols iris was a bright gold SDB, Sdlg. #8654B. Have you heard the latest iris gossip? Well, it is ROYAL GOSSIP this time. In case you haven't been in on the news, this one is Nichols' 1988 introduction. The plush look of velvet in dark violet adorns the standards. This same color carries through the falls with a touch of white velvet in the center. The blue beard and some ruffling complete the royal ensemble.

For irisarians who like the color orange, add OBLIGATA (Stahly '88) to your list. A "Hey, look at me!" color this IB with light ruffling completes a striking picture of an iris. Another iris, a splendid ruffled orange self with a fuzzy red beard, was the IB SUNNY HONEY (G. Shoop '85). This was a well-grown clump of irises, one you couldn't afford to miss.

A noteworthy TB iris, TOP GUN (Gaulter '88), had very good bloom despite rain the previous night. Its standards of creamy-pink and rose-pink falls were set off by a deep orange beard.

An "oldie" that is still in style is BUTTER PECAN (Hager '83). This IB with standards of pecan-brown over yellow and falls of yellow, stitched and bordered in deep pecan-brown, will add a little mystery to the garden.

An iris that was nicely branched and had a good bud count was FOR TIRAH (Maryott '86). You can bet this heavily ruffled salmon-pink iris was posing for many pictures during the convention.

Another iris not to be missed was AT DAWN (L. Miller '87). The pale yellow TB with domed standards and slightly ruffled falls also had a slight fragrance. This was a well grown iris.

A Sterling Innerst seedling #2878-2 with deep tan standards sported an attractive edging on the deep burgandy falls. This particular plant had rather slight flowers which might have been out of class for an IB.

We end with something on the sweet side like CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE (Jeffries '89). This SDB of tan and brown was well within size and proportion for its class and is certain to enliven the flower garden.

Time was quickly passing, but a fast trip to the refreshment table was necessary to make this a complete report of the garden. There was punch being served in a most beautiful iris bowl. Larry said he didn't think the bowl was meant to be a punch bowl, but every good cook knows that the presenta-

tion is just as important as the food. And all the food here was beautifully presented! The exquisite display of strawberries, pineapples and melons was almost too beautiful to eat. We must mention the famous Harder family recipe for the sweet rolls that were so fresh, light . . . and soo good!

The grand finale was a peek into the Harder home to meet Larry's delightful mother, a most pleasant person to speak with. The comment was made, "You certainly take good care of Larry." She humbly replied, "No, we take care of each other." The home was creatively decorated with iris collectables which must have taken years to acquire, and just like Larry's plant collection, all done with exquisite taste.

Note: Because our group was allowed less than an hour in this garden, the reporter felt it necessary to gather information from fellow irisarians. Their observations and helpful notes enabled me to give a more complete report of this fascinating garden. I am grateful for their assistance.

AIS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Annual	\$ 9.50	Family Triennial	28.50
Triennial	23.75	Life	190.00
Family	11.50	Family Life	237.50
Youth Member, with others of family as members			2.00
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SECTION MEMBERSHIP RATES	single annual	single triennial	family annual	family triennial
Median Iris Society	5.50	15.00	8.00	22.50
Society for Siberian Irises	2.50	6.50	3.00	7.50
Spuria Iris Society	3.00	7.00	3.50	8.00
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Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris	4.00	10.00	5.00	12.00
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The Schliefert Garden

June Richards (Kentucky)

A trip back to yesteryear was what greeted irisarians at the Schliefert Garden. As we entered by the garden gate, the fragrance of lilac surrounded us. The path led to the family farm house, beautifully restored by Mickey Schliefert Anson, owner and operator of the gardens which were established by her father in the 1930's. On our right was a rock garden and pool with a footbridge which dated from 1928—one of her father's creations.

We were warmly greeted by Mickey and her friends and neighbors acting as hostesses serving lemonade and cookies—one tray more tempting than the next.

Mickey has maintained much of her father's original garden plan, but she has incorporated ideas of her own. The layout of the garden is reminiscent of a long ago era with its many and varied shrubs and trees. All are labeled for the visitors' convenience. Mickey's father was quite interested in unusual plants and trees. I was delighted to see several shrubs, not often seen today, that grew in my mother's garden.

A large planting of Dykes Medal Winners was in full bloom in an adjoining field. Although an early morning rain had left the field pretty muddy for walking, some brave souls had to check out their old favorites.

It's hard to believe that a garden so full of so many and varied plants and shrubs had room for more, but Mickey found space for 200 guest irises. Just to mention some that caught my eye were: Terry Aitken's WALKING TALL with such large blooms, also his MAUI MOONLIGHT, a lovely ruffled light yellow



Carol Gruber, Jan Dodds, and Bev Johnson in the Schliefert Garden.

self; GLITZ N GLITTER from Paul Black, that striking flower with yellow standards and purple falls with yellow hafts and a bright yellow beard; Joe Ghio's SUCCESS STORY, a lovely combination of light blue standards and red violet falls with yellow beards; RUSTLER (Keppel) caught everyone's eye with its golden standards tinged with rose and brown falls with edges of pale gold and its orange beard; Burch's GOING PLACES was a beauty—raspberry self with bright orange beard. Needless to say, there was more to see than one short visit would allow. Every nook and cranny seemed to hold another surprise from an ancient wheelbarrow used by Mickey's father to the original "three seater" in the corner of the garden. Our thanks to Mickey for giving us such a lovely treat.

AFTER THE CONVENTION REPORTS

The Drickey Garden

Roger P. Mazur (Nebraska)

A short drive from the convention center, past the "Omaha strip" with its restaurants, shopping malls and traffic—you turn a corner, and what previously assaulted the senses, now soothes them with its Walden-like setting. Here almost hidden from the road by a hedge of bridal wreath spirea is the Drickey "Little by Little" garden. Large eastern white pines line the area west of the house, and below them a multitude of hostas weave their blue, gold and green leaves in patterns that copy the adjacent path. The sheltering effect gives a coolness necessary to rescue avid irisarians from the heat while engaging in their favorite pastime. Sloped and terraced, the path leads to the iris display beds behind the house.

Pat and Dean Drickey are the most congenial and genuine hosts one could imagine. It was hard not to be caught up in their enthusiasm for the tour—even more amazing to learn that just three short years prior there was a vision, but not much else. Yet "little by little" the Drickey's hard work and vigil transformed the ground into the garden it is today.

Circling the front of the house was a bed of Siberian irises, mostly in bud, due to the lateness of the season. However, DANCE BALLERINA DANCE (Varner '83), the well known and justly famous lavender-pink amoena, showed off its large timely blossoms.

Since this part of the house faces south, the bed had more bloom than any other. Ben Hager's AMAZON BRIDE '88, opened its flowers displaying its ruffled white flowers edged in gold, looking much like its parent BRIDE'S HALO. VERACITY (Hummel '87) drew the eye to its good orange color with good branching and bud count, a respectful tribute to Jim's wife, Vera. There is something about Nebraska that doesn't like orange colored irises; most grow too short to be classed tall bearded and lack the minimum bud count worthy of introduction. But, here we have an introduction that defies tradition.

The first thing the Hummels look for in their seedling patch is branching and bud count, while color is a secondary consideration. This was quite apparent in all of Jim's irises in this bed including SUMMER HAZE, a smoky blend; TASSELLENA, a yellow with orange infusion; TIDE MARK, a lavender blue plicata with red beard; and seedling H80-20L, a brilliant ruffled violet-magenta with a shocking red beard and show bench branching with eight buds.

Nearby, Rowlan's space-age introductions and seedlings were showing off. The one especially liked by conventioners was 87-TB-2, a well branched ruffled and laced white with horns. Perhaps a little narrow for modern standards, but it is a step forward.

In an area reserved for favorite irises rather than guests, KATY LYNN (Evelyn Kegerise '86) bloomed its wonderfully branched stalks with such a voraciousness that other irises in the same bed paled by comparison. This is one of the prettiest, ruffled lemon yellow irises that doesn't know when to stop blooming. Niswonger's EVERYTHING PLUS '84 showed branching starting very low to the ground, enabling it to support an extra branch without crowding the flowers. The pale blue standards and white falls with violet rim is probably the best hardy iris in this color range. Another plicata that was growing well was STERLING STITCH (Innerst '83) a lavender plicata with good branching and bright pink beards. The iris with the widest falls and best growth has to be JEAN HOFFMEISTER (Gatty '83) which was growing better than its sib SWIRLING SEAS and much more vigorous than its child ROYAL ELEGANCE (GATTY '88) although the latter has flowers of perfect form.

Roger Nelson, an expatriate of Region 21, could be proud of WINDSTAR '89 with three good stalks displaying the wide, deep ruffled, dark violet blue flowers with a white beard and a small lighter spot below the beard. Two clumps of '90 IBs of Gene Gaddie showed great vigor. GOLDEN GUSTO is as the name implies a bright gold self, and WIDE BLUE EYES is a pale blue with a darker spot at the end of the beard. Even taller and better is the seedling, TRANQUILINO, a tall growing TB with strong stalks with three branches and eight buds, with true blue, exquisitely ruffled, flaring flowers. Even though it is quite tall, TRANQUILINO stood up to the prairie winds unlike most others of similar height. Gene's best introduction!

Behind the house, surrounded by wide gravel paths, were three large irregular beds, lined with plantings of saponaria, dianthus, dwarf veronica and accented by peonies, poppies and lupines, mostly in shades of red—the only color absent in irises. Here TOP GUN (Gaulter '88) a bicolor in hues of pink and rose pink, displayed tremendous fluorescence, a little bunched, but of great value as a garden iris for its quantity of color. Not far away, in more subtle tones, stood PISTOL (Claussen '83). Great branching on this older two toned blue violet creation. One could not miss the stalk of BEGUINE (Keppel '87). The color may not be as eye catching as Keith's RASPBERRY FUDGE with its ruffled blossoms, but BEGUINE seems to show greater vigor with many more stalks on a two year plant. Then again, who could complain about

a plicata whose ruffled standards are an amber rose; falls a salmon with darker rose stitching; and show bench branching with three blooms to boot?

A new hybridizer in Region 21 is Richard Freund from eastern Iowa. All of his seedlings in the Drickey garden had good stalks with a minimum of 7 buds. Only one seedling F85-00, a luscious apricot orange, opened in time to be seen, leaving the rest an unsolved mystery.

With so many stalks and so many flowers yet unopened in the Drickey garden, everyone knew visitors in the days to come would behold a wealth of color.

Bumble Bee Gardens

Vera Hummel (Nebraska)

As we waited for the buses to arrive, we discussed the possibility that convention in this garden would be a perfect opportunity for judges to study branching, stalks, and bud count—something we sometimes forget to do when the flowers are so beautifully attracting us. Instead, we discovered that people's primary interest was how we managed to control the weeds and disease so well.

We had given the guest plants a foliar feeding six weeks before the convention because the weather had been so unfavorable the previous two growing seasons. If you saw a guest plant looking healthy and carrying a bloom stalk, you can be sure the variety will survive any weather, as it did here! We had two years of drought, 90 degree temperatures in February, snow in April, and a very cold, damp spring. Leaf spot had been controlled with an early treatment of Benomyl, just after the prairie hay and all remaining debris had been removed.

We enjoyed a wonderful bloom, as did hundreds of other visitors to our garden. Many judges and other convention attendees paid a return trip to Bumble Bee Gardens, so the guest plants did receive attention in Wayne, NE. For the second year in a row, a visitor wanted to know when ACOMA would be available from Tom Magee. We were attracted to MY SHADOW, a very deep blue with an unusual beard color. Almost every visitor remarked that Innerst's BEFORE THE STORM was the blackest iris to be found, even when the evening sun was shining through the flower. Other Innerst varieties drawing attention were CHAPTER for its unusual colors and CRITIC for its wonderful stalk full of flowers.

Lankow's border bearded, CALICO CAT, is a small, delicate flower well proportioned to its foliage. Besides that, the bloom from two stalks with six buds each seemed to go on forever—a flower full of substance. Boswell's LEPRECHAUN EYELASH is a well-named SDB and a garden favorite with visitors. BANDED BUTTERFLY, an IB with six buds here, is a lemon yellow with interesting brown markings.

Joe Gatty's SMART ALECK bloomed late here and received lots of attention for the intensity of color. The flowers exhibited grand substance when the

weather warmed up to 90 degrees following many days in the 70's. Hager's GOOD GUY is a marvelous pure white iris with elegant form. Many of Ben's flowers were huge on thick stalks that don't mind Nebraska's raging winds.

George Slade's BY GEORGE, HELEN WITH LOVE, and MORGAN RAIDER all bloomed later in our season and exhibited ability to withstand first a strong southeastern wind and then a northwestern gale, the only two winds that really affect this garden! Schreiners' ALTRUIST is a different shade of blue, a beautifully formed flower, and a garden favorite. GINGER SWIRL has huge beautiful flowers and a stalk to support them. While THRILLER has been somewhat temperamental for us, the iridescent colors and interesting beard justify the flower's name.

Guest seedlings that interested us were Tim Stanek's 85-1, a greyed white standard with a delicate yellow edge and a chartreuse yellow fall. We have seen no other iris with this color combination, and the flower had adequate bud count, branch, and substance. Lyle Fort's seedlings were among the latest things to bloom in the garden, and the colors were worth the wait. 82-3-B is a lilac infused white with blue-white falls, very round form, and delicate fluting. 85-72-N is a very interesting blue with white coloration and was blooming on a weather damaged stalk. We would like to see this one again. 86-152-M has a white standard, and the white flared falls are blushed lilac and display a hot red-orange beard. Richard Freund's F85-00 is a tall sturdy stalk displaying a melon orange self. This healthy plant has flowers exhibiting substance to stand any midwestern weather.

While many of you so graciously expressed concern for us in our disappointment at so little bloom, we want you to know how much we regretted being unable to have every one of you with us on the many grand days we enjoyed. Because of the cool weather that delayed the bloom for you, the bloom was *extended* for us! We truly enjoyed your visit with us and have appreciated the many warm greetings we have received since the convention. Do come see us again whenever your travels take you anywhere *close* to WAYNE, AMERICA!

THE IRIS DEN

You may be remembering this garden where the "chick" from Wayne's nationally famous Chicken Days was on hand to welcome you if the flowers were not. Flowers *did* bloom abundantly here, and many judges and other conventioners returned to see the bloom across our delayed iris season.

We somehow doubt that the bulletin editor will allow the space to tell you about *all* the interesting flowers viewed in this garden. Only a few that drew special attention will be noted. Carr's COMMANDER IN CHIEF displays a yellow standard, cream fall with a yellow thumbprint, good form and substance. Ernst's ADOBE ROSE calls a visitor for a closer look with its pure melon standard and peach rose fall. Its stalk was sporting eight buds and bloomed for many days. Joe Gatty's seedling Q30-1A looked as if ADOBE ROSE had been "turned over" to achieve its color. This is a seedling we would like to see again.

Fisher's FROSTED VELVET and OZARK SKY were the most interesting of the MTB's blooming. The many buds per stalk insured bloom for several days. Gene Gaddie's seedling, ANNE GADDIE, put on a beautiful show with its rose to cream standard and burgundy velvet falls.

Hager's AMAZON BRIDE is a clean white rimmed with yellow. FRINGE BENEFITS is a clean, lacy orange self with a bud count of 7 in this garden. Keppel's JITTERBUG made me walk around the bed for another look every day that it bloomed. This small flower has an intensity of color that rivals RUSTLER as an attention getter in the garden. BODACIOUS also has wonderful deep colors of mulberry, grape, and yellow and a rust beard.

Lynda Miller's GENTLE DRAGON has an interesting velvety burgundy fall with hash marks that looked to me like eye lashes under a deep gold beard. The flower was small and in proportion to its stem and foliage. Niswonger's KINGLY DIGNITY had three open, well placed flowers. This white flower has a lilac blush at the haft, some veining, and a gold beard. Palmer's SUNKIST FRILLS introduced by Hahn is an interesting color pattern in its yellow class.

Schreiners' SUMMER FIESTA has a cream yellow standard with burgundy falls. I counted ten buds on this beautifully branched cultivar. Stahly's seedling, 83-2, is a nice soft yellow whose falls are rimmed darker. The standards discreetly display deep veined yellow styles, and the branch carried seven buds. Burch's border bearded MISS NELLIE was putting on a terrific show. This clump was plum full of the prettiest flowers and plenty of increase to spare.

It was our pleasure to have you visit the garden, and to grow the guest plants for convention. We invite you to visit us again when your travels take you through Nebraska.

The Dean and Pat Drickey Garden

Hooker Nichols (Oklahoma)

The "Little by Little" garden of Dean and Pat Drickey will be a garden that will be long remembered by all those who attended the Omaha Convention. The Drickeys are a wonderful host and hostess who make sure that every guest thoroughly enjoys visiting the garden. The entire garden underwent a transformation to accommodate all the guest irises you saw blooming. Pat even gave up her extensive daffodil beds so that irises could be planted in them.

The Drickeys have been members of the Greater Omaha Iris Society and the American Iris Society for years. They are the parents of four sons and have seven grandchildren—all of whom live in the Omaha area.

The refreshments served in this garden will be long remembered as will the irises seen blooming. Fresh pineapple, banana, strawberry and orange slices complemented the delicious "Sally's Morning Glory Muffins" served during the morning tours and the Danish butter cookies which were served during the afternoon tours.

It was quite interesting to see how Dean and Pat Drickey had complemented all their flower beds with flowers such as columbines, poppies, saponaria, bleeding hearts, lupines, seedums, impatiens, peonies, ajuga, balloon flowers, geraniums and monarda. Non-flowering accentuating items were the hostas under the white pines on the west side of the house. The juniper yews and dwarf Alberta spruces and Bird nest trees surrounded the terraced picnic tables throughout the beautiful, shaded garden.

One of the first irises to catch my eye was a beautiful seedling of C. T. Claussen CC-82-12 which had ruffled creamy yellow-white standards with ivory falls edged creamy yellow with orange and yellow beards. Well branched stalks with many buds made quite an impression with garden visitors. ORETTA McCARTHY (J. Durrance '88) done in shades of light grey-blue with deep blue beards looked quite nice. YUKON TWILIGHT (J. Durrance '88) complemented the former with light blue flowers with deep blue beards. Both of these irises would make a worthy addition to anyone's garden.

MOTHER EARTH (Hager '88) simply radiated beauty with its huge flowers. The ruffled standards are creamy oyster with a lavender wash near the edges while the falls are broad and ruffled being lavender with beige hafts. FRINGE BENEFITS (Hager '88) is one for the front of the border because it does not grow very tall, but the color is fantastic! The ruffled and laced deep orange flowers have bright tangerine beards. It's well branched with many buds. NANCY GLAZIER (Hamblen '86) beckons to all iris lovers who like the unusual colors. Tall, well branched stalks displayed the beautiful flowers. Standards are oyster-white with violet bases. The falls are nearly the same color, but they have a yellow edge with greyed yellow hafts and the greyed orange beards are tipped blue.

VERACITY (Hummel '87) looked very good in all the tour gardens but was especially appealing in this lovely garden. The flowers are not huge and are more tailored, but the color makes this one good enough to eat. A smooth cadmium orange self with Indian orange beards. Well branched and many buds. ROBIN CHRISTINE (R. Jeffries '85) looked even better this year than when I saw it blooming in the Drickey garden last year. Light violet flowers with red beards were very showy. PINCH OF SPICE (W. Moores '84) continues to gain an audience with its beautiful flowers. A ruffled, deep yellow ground plicata with dark cinnamon markings throughout the flowers. A very dependable border iris that grows very well for everyone.

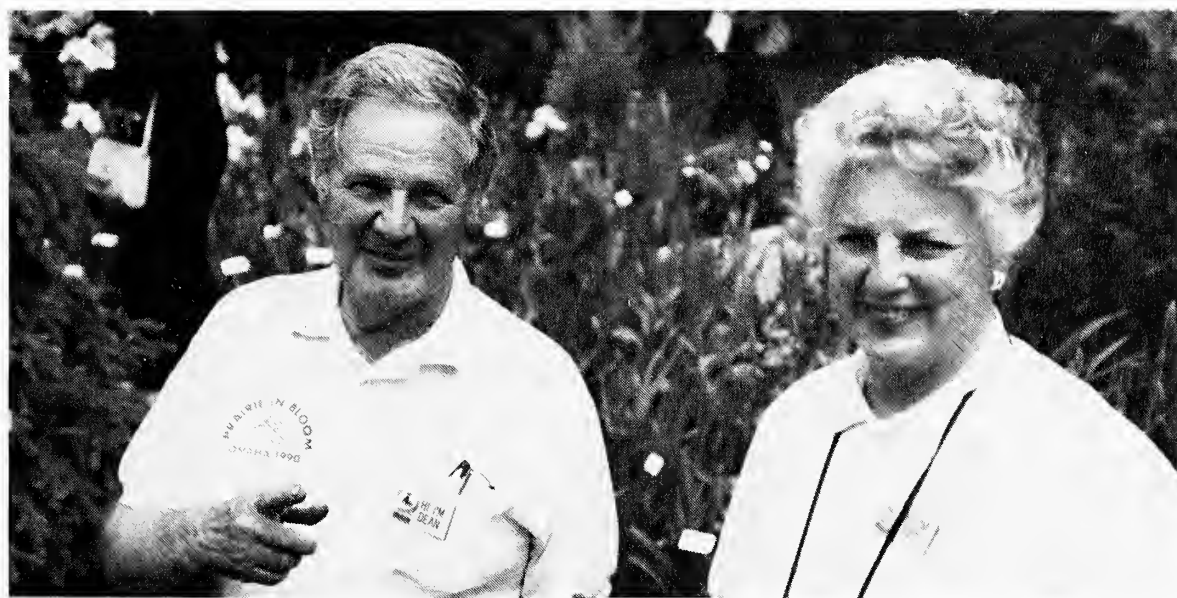
MINTED HALO (Mueller '87) will really be appreciated as distribution continues. The ruffled flowers have pink lavender standards which are blended yellow near the center to dark golden yellow near the midribs. The ruffled falls are blended pink-lavender veined lighter toward golden yellow beards and golden yellow hafts. The final touch of class is added by the solid brown border on the falls. CASTLE STRONGHOLD (H. Nichols '88) with its purple on white plicata flowers on well branched stalks was a worthy addition to the border bearded class. LATIN HIDEAWAY (H. Nichols '86) with ruffled

flowers having beige-white standards with blended claret-wine falls edged the color of the standards and orange beards displayed several well branched stalks. WINDSONG WEST (H. Nichols '88) done in shades a pale blue blended smoky blue looked great near the white pine trees.

Several of the Schreiners irises were really putting on a show in this delightful garden. ALTRUIST (Schreiners '87) was a delightful combination of azure and white blending on lovely stalks. CRYSTAL GLITTERS (SCHREINERS '85) bloomed on excellent stalks and was a smooth blend of creamy peach and pink. GINGER SWIRL (Schreiners '85) had many stalks displaying the blended lavender and tan flowers. LULLABY OF SPRING (SCHREINERS '87) always impresses me when it is blooming in a huge clump. The soft lemon and alluring lavender flowers command attention in any garden. SILVERADO (SCHREINERS '87) ranks as my favorite Schreiner introduction in recent years. The heavy substantanced and ruffled blue-white flowers with creamy tangerine beards makes this cultivar a must for all irisarians.

There were a few Siberian irises which impressed me greatly. RASPBERRY PUNCH (J. Ennenga '88) showed off itself with ruffled flowers of red-violet with brown hafts and white signals. RIVER CITY WINE (J. Ennenga '88) was similar to Raspberry Punch but had yellow-green hafts and a white signal. SYLVAN POND (J. Ennenga '88) had light Moorish blue flowers with yellow-green hafts and small white signals. MABEL CODAY (Helsley '85) with its ruffled light blue flowers with white signals put on a grand show and display. ILLINI PURPLE PEPPER (Varner) simply was beautiful with blended aqua and purple standards with bright medium purple falls.

These were but a few of the very impressive irises I saw blooming after the convention. On one particular day, several local artists were busily painting garden scenes throughout the Drickey garden. This beautiful, secluded iris garden is one of the finest gardens found in the Omaha area. Dean and Pat Drickey are to be generously thanked for sharing their lovely garden with their fellow irisarians.



Dean and Pat Drickey

Youth Views

Catherine Long Gates

1990 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement

1990 marked a new high for recognizing the achievements of our youth members. Ten youths were nominated by a record 17 nominators. Thanks to all those who took the time to share the accomplishments of the nominees with the rest of us.

The winner of this year's contest is 16 year old Jerry Simmons from San Jose, California. Jerry's name must be familiar to almost anyone who belongs to a robin since he seems to belong and actively participate in nearly every one. Jerry's literary skills also extend to writing numerous articles about irises and youth activities. Jerry's local club, the Clara B. Rees Iris Society, has put his talents to work as secretary of the club.

In his home garden Jerry grows over 700 cultivars from a wide range of iris types. He is actively hybridizing TBs and ABs. He organized the International Hybridizing Network and corresponds with people world-wide. In addition he exchanges pollen and seeds through this network.

In keeping with previous youth winners, some of Jerry's greatest achievements lie in all his help with club activities. He has assisted with the annual rhizome sale, spring show, and with a club sponsored city park beautification project involving the planting of over 2,000 Siberian irises. He has also been instrumental in establishing an iris display garden at his high school.

A tall, cheerful young man, Jerry's iris achievements have added to his stature. Region 14 and AIS are fortunate to count him as a member.

Only one vote separated the winner and the first runner-up; an indication of the accomplishments of the number two finisher, Sue Copeland. Sue lives in Mattawan, Michigan. Although only 18 years old, she has been a member of the American Iris Society for 14 years. Since the 1976 AIS Convention in Michigan when she helped serve as a hostess at her family's garden, she has maintained her own garden. Sue is an AIS garden judge. She has started hybridizing and has been studying genetics in school. Her interest and knowledge in genetics aided her in writing the winning essay in the 1989 Ackerman Youth Essay Contest sponsored by the AIS Foundation.

Sue has been a very regular participant in the shows held by the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society. She started assisting with the show at the age of five when she helped to fill bottles. Now she has run the gamut of show duties since this year she is serving as chairman of the Japanese Iris Show of her local society.

All of Sue's nominators used the same adjectives to describe her—helpful, cheerful, competent, enthusiastic, dependable, honest, practical, intelligent, hard-working. Words brought about by deeds to be envied and emulated.

The second runner-up, and also very close in the voting, is Andrea Johnson from Spartanburg, South Carolina. A very active member of the Piedmont Carolina Iris Society and AIS member since 1984, Andrea is just 13. She started hybridizing at age 9 and is working on some specific goals, like a black & white plicata.

An accredited AIS judge, she strives to uphold her responsibilities by attending local and regional meetings.

Andrea has participated in many shows and won several medals in both horticultural and educational divisions. Her educational efforts have extended to projects on hybridizing for school and for public displays. She has helped to maintain an active youth group in her club and has published a youth newsletter.

According to her nominators Andrea is a true "iris ambassador," willing and eager to talk iris to anyone and everyone.

Congratulations to the winners, nominees, and all the others who through their achievements keep the American Iris Society a "growing" experience!

YOUTH CONTEST RULES

If you know an AIS youth member who is active in any of the following areas please nominate that youth!

He/She grows a very fine garden of his/her own.

He/She is an active hybridizer.

He/She has contributed to an iris publication.

He/She has helped an iris organization through a committee or activity.

He/She visits local gardens.

He/She has attended regional/national conventions.

He/she is studying to become or is already an AIS judge.

He/She has promoted iris and/or AIS to others.

He/She has found new AIS members.

He/She competes enthusiastically in shows.

He/She is involved in scientific experiments with irises.

He/She is interested in irises other than TBs.

He/She shows leadership.

Rules are simple. Any AIS member may nominate any AIS youth member. Entries must be in writing, including the name and age of the youth member, and mailed to Catherine Gates by January 31, 1991. The youth committee will code the entries to conceal identities and send them to a carefully selected panel of judges. Awards will be presented at the National Convention in Washington, D.C.

Tips to Nominators: Please use the activity list above as an outline for your nomination, elaborating on each area that applies to your nominee. Try to limit your nomination to a maximum of two pages. Feel free to add anything not covered in the list, especially those qualities that make your nominee special. Take as much care and consideration as possible in preparing your nomination. How well you present your nominee to the judges can influence the outcome.

Attention All Youth!

Jerry Simmons (California)

Interested in getting more involved in AIS? If so, here are two exciting new opportunities for you.

The first is a national youth newsletter. This newsletter will be devoted to the youth of our society and sent out to all youth members. We *need* articles to get this idea off the ground. Please write an article on a different activity your club provides to its youth members, irises you grow, ideas for getting more youth involved in AIS, or anything else that might interest youth. Don't be discouraged from writing an article because you think you're not a great writer or because you think you might be too young—almost everyone contributing articles will be your age and of your writing abilities. Articles from youth chairpersons and the general membership welcomed, but primarily we hope that the youth will use this newsletter to share their news and views. A suggestion for articles from youth chairpersons and the general membership would be profiles of outstanding youth members or activities your local club or region provides for its youth. Please send all articles or questions by January 1, 1991 to Jerry Simmons, Articles Editor, 4049 Ross Park Dr., San Jose, CA 95118.

The second opportunity is a youth round robin. A round robin is a group of people who write letters to each other in a circle. Each person receives a packet of letters containing a letter from each member of the robin. You simply add a new letter to the packet, take out your old letter, and send the packet on to the next person on the list. A robin usually has between eight and ten members and comes to each person every few months. We hope to set up two robins at the start of this program. One will be for youth members up to age 15, and the other will be for ages 15 to 29 (a teens and twenties robin). In these robins you can discuss events you've been to or helped with, ideas you have, irises you grow, hybridizing, or any other iris related topic. The goal of these robins is to give youth members the opportunity to know other youth members, encourage each other, and exchange ideas. If you're interested in joining a robin, please write Jerry Simmons at the address above.

An Iris Season in Review

Ted White (Maine)

The 1989 iris season was, indeed, the most difficult and trying since the open winter of 1979-1980. While conditions varied depending upon garden location, this, in general, was not the year of the tall bearded irises. Snow cover had been very light or insufficient in many gardens. Many of the less hardy irises simply could not cope with ice, freezing temperatures, and the lack of insulation. To identify the season as a fiasco seems a bit too harsh although the relatively sparse TB bloom was a disappointment to many an iris enthusiast. The standard dwarfs, Siberians, and Japanese performed well,

particularly the Siberians. In gardens where the JI's had been covered with ice, they suffered. In gardens with little or no ice, they prospered.

Setbacks aside, our attention was focused upon preparations for the 1990 Japanese Iris Convention to be held here in Maine. The promise of a great convention to come helped ease the sense of disappointment, and gave us optimism for the year to come. And that's the way it was this unforgettable year 1989.

First, our special awards for the 1989 season:

TB Award of Excellence:

This award is given annually to a TB iris we've observed growing in Maine gardens for a minimum of two seasons, and that has been an outstanding performer. This year our choice is DUSKY CHALLENGER (Schreiner '86). Here we have an absolutely gigantic flower of silky, rich purple. This beauty grows on nicely branched stalks standing about 39" that carry 8-10 buds. Sometimes DUSKY CHALLENGER will open four blooms at once. A strong contender for the Dykes Medal in '92 or '93, this stunning iris grows and increases very well. You have to have a special adjective for superstars such as this—"class" seems very apropos.

TB 5-Star Award:

This award goes to a recent TB introduction of the highest merit. Our choice this year is SILVERADO (Schreiner '87). SILVERADO is a beautiful silvery blue white flower of outstanding substance and lavish ruffling. Good branching and bud count are characteristic of its 38" stem. SILVERADO is strongly recommended as a very superior variety. Winner of the Walther Cup (most HM votes) in 1989, it, too, will be a contender one day for the Dykes Medal.

Median Award of Excellence:

This distinction goes to the one median iris that impressed us with its vigor, color, and form. Our choice this year is the border bearded variety BORDERLINE (Ghio '84). Excellent vigor and floriferous blooming traits characterize this ruffled near yellow amoena. The standards are pure white and complement the medium yellow falls. A narrow white band encircles the yellow falls and adds the finishing touch. Note that BORDERLINE like many other border bearded irises may not always stay within the height specifications of a BB iris. It has been known to stray slightly from the 27" height limit.

Siberian Award of Excellence:

This honor is bestowed on a Siberian iris that has exhibited outstanding color, form, and growth. The winner this season is JEWELLED CROWN (Hollingworth '87). This new Siberian simply stunned those who viewed it in the Moors' garden! The flower could best be described as a beautiful, large, deep wine red. The standards are ruffled; the falls are flaring, horizontal, waved, and ruffled. When fresh, the falls sport a circular gold blaze which fades gracefully to white as the flower ages. This in no way detracts from the beauty of the flower. JEWELLED CROWN is very vigorous and establishes

quickly. Certainly, JEWELLED CROWN is one of the very finest Siberian introductions of the '80s. Get it any way you can!

Japanese Award of Excellence:

This award is given to a Japanese iris of exceptional form, vigor, and distinctiveness. Our choice for '89 goes to what we believe is the finest JI introduction of the decade just past. We are referring to none other than JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen '88). 1989 was the year when the JI world discovered this gem at the National JI Convention in Washington, D.C. There, it simply mesmerized about 150 enthusiasts, and when it came time to cast their ballots for their favorite guest iris, JAPANESE PINWHEEL won by landslide proportions. For those unfamiliar with JAPANESE PINWHEEL, it is a very rich wine red with flaring 8" flowers that possess a distinct white edging. It is a tetraploid JI with single flowers that dignify its 40" stalks. Demand is and will continue to be extremely high and likewise its price. Currently selling for about \$40, its price is not likely to drop in the near future. If you can find anyone willing to sell you a piece under \$40, take him/her up on the offer. We usually avoid making too many predictions concerning awards for fear of looking rather foolish when the judges' ballots are in; however, we predict that JAPANESE PINWHEEL will surely coast to the Payne Award in 1992!

Tall Bearded Varietal Review:

Our comments here will be, out of necessity, very abbreviated since the bloom on newer tall beardededs was insufficient to draw many meaningful conclusions. Perhaps it is best to focus upon the survivors rather than the casualties for the former have proven that they have those qualities needed to flourish under the most adverse conditions, and would, therefore, make fine additions to any garden.

DARKSIDE (Schreiner '85) performed superbly! In fact, this outstanding deep, purple-black variety had its best season ever since arriving in the home garden in '85. It should be noted that several other TB irises growing adjacent to DARKSIDE were struggling just to survive. DARKSIDE sent up about 10 stalks of normal height with abundant bloom. This iris is recommended with absolutely no reservations.

LORILEE (Schreiners '81) wasn't fazed in the least by the harshness of winter conditions. Its rose-orchid blooms on sturdy stalks were again magnificent. LORILEE is simply a most super iris in all Maine gardens since its introduction. Don't be without it! As the season progressed, it became apparent that irises of the dark persuasion were faring best of all. STORM CENTER (Schreiners '79) just begged for attention. It never looked finer! This rich, handsome, violet-indigo self possesses good branching with 8-9 buds. All clumps in four gardens were healthy and vigorous.

ROYAL CHANT (Black '86) showed evidence in its first season of superior hardiness and vigor. This excellent variety is an early, glossy, dark maroon red of great garden value. ROYAL CHANT showed no signs of winter stress, and was very healthy while others nearby were not. GYPSY WOMAN (Schreiners

'85) really came into its own this season. This iris possesses an enchanting ½" light rose-orchid band that delicately graces the edges of the creamy white falls. Soft yellow standards and beards complete the picture. Branching is good and the bud count may reach 11.

Siberian Iris Review:

In a season preceded by an "open" winter, there were many casualties particularly in the tall bearded ranks. The Siberian irises, however, never performed any better. They took all that Mother Nature brought their way including an ice cover of 3-4" in one garden. If one desires an iris that is always hardy, vigorous, and environmentally adaptable, there is no iris better suited to Maine than the Siberian.

The following, we believe, includes many of the choice Siberians that thrive in the Maine environment.

We were especially taken with BLUE REVERIE (McEwen '85). This lovely tetraploid variety carries large 6" flowers with 2¾" falls. Basically a fine light blue shade, it is enhanced with wide, white signals. This is no ordinary Siberian. BLUE REVERIE is among the very best, and will be grown with pride in anyone's garden. WINDWOOD SPRING (Hollingworth '85) debuted in the Moors' garden to rave reviews. Light blue standards are very ruffled and are complemented by a prominent white blaze extending over half the light blue falls. This tetraploid enjoys heavy substance, and is among the first to bloom.

Bee Warburton's BELLISSIMA ('86) is an exquisitely formed ruffled, white Siberian with a green flush. Fringed styles and floret crests help one identify this fine creation. BELLISSIMA is an excellent grower; however, in 1989 some stalks tended to lean heavily in a mature clump. Perhaps this was just a response to an over-abundance of rain. This inclination to seek the prone position is common among some of the white Siberians.

LUCKY LILAC (McEwen '88) is a very attractive tetraploid iris with falls of lavender pink and lighter standards. This descendant of the LAVENDER BOUNTY line has a very long season of bloom, and when established, can be a repeater. Tall at 32", LUCKY LILAC has excellent vigor and increases rapidly. One is not apt to confuse this variety with any other as its color is quite distinctive.

MARSHMALLOW FROSTING (McEwen '84) is a glistening pure white tetraploid of flaring form and excellent substance. In this large flowering variety (6"), there is no tendency to sprawl as sturdy stalks carry the large blooms with ease. In the pure white class, MARSHMALLOW FROSTING has no peers.

DIANNE'S DAUGHTER (McEwen '88), a child of DEAR DIANNE, bloomed for the first time in our Jackson Hill Gardens, and it showed promise of even greater glories to come as it matures to clump size. Our subject falls into the light blue-violet class and displays nice ruffling in a compact, triangular form with 2" falls. DIANNE'S DAUGHTER blooms very late, perhaps the latest variety to open. There are so many outstanding qualities in this cultivar that it is a must for the Siberian connoisseur.

HELIOTROPE BOUQUET (Hollingworth '86) has large flowers that open mid-mauve with a blue influence. The standards are broad and short with blue lines up the center. This is a very vigorous and very early variety, so early, in fact, it may be your earliest blooming Siberian. HELIOTROPE BOUQUET'S coloration is subtle and difficult to describe or capture adequately on film; however, most who see it want to add it to their collection.

Dr. McEwen's REGENCY BUCK ('85) continues to be a simply exceptional flower and plant in all respects. If we were forced to choose only 5 of our more than 100 Siberian irises to keep, REGENCY BUCK would certainly be one of those 5! Very ruffled 5" flowers of rich, very velvety reddish, violet-blue characterize this charmer. This tetraploid has wide ruffled styles which contrast with white signals. REGENCY BUCK is truly a class act, and one Siberian all should grow. Don't miss it!

For some time now we have been expounding upon the merits of HARPSWELL HALLELUJAH (McEwen '83). The simply outstanding 5½" flowers are a very rich violet-blue and are very round. The depth of the blue color in this variety is not found in any other Siberian iris. It is viewed best in the early morning or evening light when its color saturation can be most appreciated. HARPSWELL HALLELUJAH is a tetraploid with a long bloom season. Truly an iris you will treasure.

Japanese Iris Review:

This past season gave us a floral preview of what might be for the anxiously awaited 1990 JI National Convention. Some JI's left an indelible impression upon us, seedlings and named varieties alike. We shall now attempt to recommend only the very best to you.

FRECKLED GEISHA (Reid '81) is among the very finest of all its contemporaries. It may best be described as a 6-petaled, ruffled white with many wine freckles and narrow petal edges of dark wine maroon. It is further adorned with white styles with wine red edges. A Payne Award winner, FRECKLED GEISHA is the epitome of class, grace, and beauty. Easily one of the top 10 JI's in our collection of over 100 varieties. Highly recommended!

ORIENTAL ROYALTY (McEwen '86) is a very dominant appearing tet flower; in fact, its blooms measure 9" with overlapping falls. Rich, dark red blooms are highlighted by white stippling around the yellow signals. Lovely ruffling, fine substance, and velvety texture all come together to give ORIENTAL ROYALTY a truly regal air. Plants are very vigorous and produce strong stalks. We know of no other JI in this color range that incorporates all these attributes in one bloom.

In Japanese irises the date of introduction is much less important when selecting truly fine cultivars. That is, many older varieties compete favorably with many other newer introductions. LIGHT AT DAWN (Marx '57) is one such variety. We were truly captivated by this fine specimen at Dr. McEwen's Seaways Gardens three years ago. LIGHT AT DAWN has white petals with a narrow border of blue-violet and a center of white styles. If you covet blue and white plicatas, you will surely love those colors in Japanese styles.

WINE RUFFLES (Ackerman '85) has a 6-petaled bloom that appears as a dark wine red self. This variety is extremely vigorous and free flowering. Blooms are large and beautifully constructed. A worthy addition to your JI bed. IKE-NO-SAZANAMI (Hirao), despite its Japanese name has earned our admiration for producing heavy, sturdy stalks and vigorous growth habits. This 6-petaled JI comes complete with starchy, white wavy petals that blush a delicate blue that is applied over the center of the falls. The white styles accent the centers. IKE-NO-SAZANAMI'S color appears to fluctuate somewhat from garden to garden. In the home garden a strong contrast between the blue and white colors was evident; however, at Peter Young's Buckfield garden it was practically a white self on one occasion. Either way it is superior.

IMMACULATE WHITE (McEwen '86) leads the white diploid field by a wide margin. This serenely beautiful 7" white self adds a touch of grace to your garden which will be magnified as it reaches clump proportions. Other attributes include a long season of bloom and re-blooming tendency. If you are seeking a superb single white, this is the one!

STRUT AND FLOURISH (Payne '60). Forget the date of introduction, this is still a most exemplary Japanese iris variety. This 6-petaled beauty has dark violet centers that blend to light blue-violet petal edges with some blue veining. This Payne Award recipient is, indeed, worthy of the honor as it lends a touch of class and dignity to any planting.

ORIENTAL CLASSIC (McEwen '88) is a pure white tetraploid double which has an extremely long bloom season. This McEwen masterpiece has glistening white semi-flaring 9" flowers of classic JI form complete with greenish yellow signals. Very well branched stalks are the norm. ORIENTAL CLASSIC is a very tall variety measuring about 40". Super!

GALA PERFORMANCE (Miller '88) comes in white with dark blue veins and styles. It has both early and late bloom stalks which add to its value. Good branching and high bud counts are customary. Seen in the Hazeltons' and the Whites' gardens in '89, GALA PERFORMANCE served notice that it would be one to watch closely as it matures to clump form. Adolph Vogt's LILAC PEAKS ('81) proved a pleasant surprise. This is not one you spot immediately. It is a rather soft, subtle, 6-petaled flower of white with a soft violet veining and a yellow signal. To complete the picture, imagine light lavender-lilac stylearms.

TWENTY-FIVE CLASSICS THAT PERFORM WELL IN MAINE: Written especially for our newer iris enthusiasts.

The following tall bearded irises have been propagated under Maine environmental conditions, and have performed admirably year after year. It is with pleasure that we share with you these blooming delights that may be purchased for no more than \$2-3 or less per rhizome.

1. BLUE LUSTER (O. Brown '73) is a rich blue self with a silken like texture and a lustrous blue beard. Branching and bud count are excellent. It may best be appreciated in the early morning or evening light. AM '76.
2. CRANBERRY ICE (Schreiner '76) defies an accurate color description and must be seen to appreciate its intricate color gradations. It is

basically a rich cranberry violet self with a light purple-white beard. It stands alone in this color class. AM '79.

3. GOING MY WAY (Gibson '72) comes dressed in crisp white petals encircled with deep pansy violet plicata markings. Substance, moderate ruffling, and vigor are trademarks of one of the truly great plicatas of all time. AM '75.
4. GOLD GALORE (Schreiner '78) is a luminous, brilliant golden yellow that is crisp and non-fading. This iris is very hardy in the northern tier of states. This beacon can really light up your garden. AM '82.
5. LORILEE (Schreiner '81) makes a valuable addition to any garden. LORILEE is tall, rugged, and vigorous. A very distinctive iris, LORILEE is color classified as a rose-orchid shade which is applied to the broad flowers that are accented by a large white zonal patch. Bud count often reaches 10-11 on well branched stems. A personal favorite. AM '85.
6. MARY FRANCES (Gaulter '73) is a gorgeous light blue-orchid self with white beards lightly touched yellow. Many show stalks are to be anticipated from this classic. DM '79.
7. SAPPHIRE HILLS (Schreiner '71) still remains the best sapphire blue iris even today. It is very dependable and blooms every year. Other blues come and go, but this jewel continues to hold center stage. SAPPHIRE HILLS grows extremely well and makes sturdy plants. AM '74.
8. SPARTAN (Schreiner '73) is a glossy, smooth rich red self which stands up to adverse weather conditions. There are no veins or haft marks—a totally clear red. AM '76.
9. SPINNING WHEEL (Nearpass '76) is a novel plicata. The standards are pure white while the falls have a spinning wheel effect with unique blue-violet markings. SPINNING WHEEL can make fantastic clumps. AM '81.
10. SUPERSTITION (Schreiner '77) is an ebony hued, rich, dark beauty that produces show stalks carrying 8-10 buds. There is a hint of maroon within this flower, but it is essentially a "black" iris. Growth and plant habits are exemplary. AM '81.
11. TITAN'S GLORY (Schreiner '81) produces huge blooms of dark violet that number 8 to a stalk. One of the first dark irises to show ruffling, it is robust and a very quick increaser. Comes highly recommended. DM '88.
12. VANITY (Hager '75) owns the patent for plant vigor and increase that make most weeds envious. VANITY may be described as blush pink with a creamy complexion. It is a prodigious bloomer sometimes sending up two stalks per rhizome. No pink iris can match VANITY'S garden appeal. DM '82.
13. GAY PARASOL (Schreiner '74) is one of the most unique and desirable irises we know. Its gleaming white standards contrast nicely with its rose-purple falls. The falls show a scrolled effect which embellishes the bloom. GAY PARASOL should have a place in any collection of tall bearded irises.
14. JOYCE TERRY (Muhlestein '74) seen in a clump is a glorious sight. It is a striking bicolor in yellow and white. The standards are a clean yellow, and

- the white falls are bordered by the color of the standards. JOYCE TERRY produces strong stems with excellent branching. Simply a beautiful creation that should have won the Dykes. AM '78.
15. CUP RACE (Buttrick '63), when introduced, was well ahead of its time. This marvelous white self of exceptional form, is a lusty grower and producer of fine show stalks. Since 1986, CUP RACE has won Queen of Show three times in New England where it was hybridized. There is no better white iris for our climate for dependability year after year. AM '69.
 16. CHARISMA (Biocher '77) has been somewhat overlooked, but is one of the best "doers" in the garden. Essentially, a medium blue self with lemon beards, it is rock hardy and vigorous. CHARISMA never fails to send up 32" stalks with blooms displaying light lace. A gem that should be in more gardens. HM '78.
 17. LEMON MIST (Rudolph '71) is a frothy, light yellow self with wide, ruffled, flaring falls. The standards are ruffled and domed. Blooms are of good substance, and the plants prosper. Once a contender for the Dykes Medal, LEMON MIST is the best that irises in lemon shadings have to offer. AM '75.
 18. MARGARITA (Schreiner '68) has stood the test of time and today remains a very unique and beautiful specimen that will enhance any space it occupies. The standards are crystalline white and are offset by the sumptuous falls of velvety, blue purple complete with a white beard. Great contrast! A superb grower, MARGARITA sports 37" stalks whose blooms open three at a time. AM '74.
 19. CAMELOT ROSE (Tompkins '65) never fails to please garden visitors with standards of silvery orchid and falls of burgundy-rose red. The falls have a velvety finish on which rests a bright orange-red beard. AM '68.
 20. COUNTRY MANOR (El. Kegerise '73) is an iris that grows like a tree! Its stems usually measure 40" or more and carry a very generous 10-12 buds. The color is a creamy white with light golden yellow at the hafts and yellow beards. COUNTRY MANOR often has 3-5 flowers open at once and usually does well on the showbench. AM '76.
 21. SYMPHONETTE (Noyd '69) incorporates an unusual blend of salmon, peach, and white that defies description. There is no other iris that even approximates these intricate shadings. To grow it is to appreciate it! AM '74.
 22. CHERISHED (Corlew '73) is a delightful pink self with a blue undertone. It has superior hardiness and plant vigor, and clumps easily. When it achieves clump size, it is very graceful and serene. HM '75.
 23. BALLET IN ORANGE (C. Smith '74) is a mikado orange self with cadmium orange beards. Branching is very good and stalks often have three blooms open at a time. This is one of the best growers of those irises with orange shadings. BALLET IN ORANGE has won no AIS awards due to poor distribution of this plant.
 24. HEATHER BLUSH (Hamner '77) with standards of fuchsia pink flushed violet and falls of amethyst violet is a very pretty iris. The tangerine

beards, fine ruffling, and classic form add to the quiet beauty of this excellent variety. AM '82.

25. WARM GOLD (Schreiner '72) is a rich, golden yellow with a touch of white in the center of the falls. A gold beard completes the picture. A good grower, it came through the winter of '88-'89 virtually unscathed. WARM GOLD is at its best when planted next to blue or purple irises. HM '73.

The Iris Versicolor Development Programme of W. H. Perron & Co. Ltd.

Monique Dumas-Quesnel, agr. and Tony Huber (Canada)

Since 1987, the Research Department of W. H. Perron & Co. Ltd has devoted the greatest part of its efforts towards improving the native species *Iris versicolor*. The general objective of this programme is to improve the ornamental characteristics and the commercial potential of *Iris versicolor* by introducing new varieties and hybrids to the market.

More specifically, our aims are to:

- augment the range of color possibilities of the species
- increase the size and number of flowers
- develop very dwarf varieties for rock gardening and edging as well as very vigorous ones for mass plantings and naturalizing
- lengthen the flowering period

The means by which we propose to achieve these aims lies principally with controlled crosses between our most promising selections (intraspecific crosses). Concurrently, we are also proceeding with several interspecific crosses between *Iris versicolor* and other species (*ensata*, *pseudacorus*, *setosa*, *virginica*, . . .) in order to combine the desirable traits particular to these species. Finally, we do also self-pollinate certain selections in order to evaluate the stability of their characteristics within their progeny.

Thus, our work consists of hybridization, evaluation and selection. It is financed in part by the National Research Council Canada.

The original plants in this programme were harvested from nature in various regions of the Province of Quebec. Later, plants from other sources were added to the programme. Among these, were *Iris versicolor* and *Iris setosa* grown from seeds obtained through the SIGNA Seed exchange and the ARGS Seed Exchange, as well as plants harvested in locales such as the Magdalen Islands and Newfoundland.

Since our program was only instituted in an official fashion in the summer of 1987, it is only during the 1989 season that we could examine and evaluate the results of our first controlled classes. Furthermore, during the Summer of 1988, plants grown from seeds during the winter of 1987 were also evaluated.

The results obtained to date are very encouraging. First of all, in what we call CLASS 1—blue and violet flowered types—our hybrids are vastly improved compared to the species as regards the flowers and the foliage. We

have horizontal or flaring falls, larger flowers, wide open standards, erect foliage, central flower stems, and other desirable features. These selections bloom abundantly and offer a wide array of shadings and color patterns within the blue-violet range.

Secondly, in what we call CLASS 2—non-blue flowered types (white, pink, wine, purple, . . .)—we also have some interesting developments. We begin to overcome the difficulty of combining new color types with optimized vigor and quality of both the flowers and the plants, and great improvements of the original types have been registered.

Finally, CLASS 3—interspecific hybrids. This has become an important part of our research since some extremely interesting plants have been obtained, particularly from crosses between *Iris versicolor* and *Iris ensata*. In these cases, not only is there a need for further evaluation but there is also a need to examine the genetic make-up of these new hybrids.

Iris versicolor is the species of iris which contains the largest number of chromosomes with $2n=108$. Our interspecific crosses are made with species that have all fewer chromosomes (*setosa* $2n=38$, *pseudacorus* $2n=34$, *ensata* $2n=24$). Obviously, all the crosses that are made do not set seeds, and the few seeds that are produced don't always produce plants. However, the few plants obtained show great potential.

One cross, made before the official start of our programme gave birth to an outstanding plant named DOM-F1. Chromosomes studies reveal that with $2n=66$, it is most probably a hybrid between *Iris versicolor* $n=54$ and *Iris ensata* $n=12$. This seems to be confirmed by the general appearance of the plant and its phenotype. Since then, we succeeded in making the same cross again between some *versicolors* and *ensatas*, and our first thinking is confirmed as we obtained nearly the same type of plants. These recent obtentions have not yet been chromosome counted. The studies will be done this winter, and we should confirm next spring.

The original hybrid DOM-F1, which is quite vigorous and floriferous is difficult to pollinate. It has very little pollen and seems almost sterile. However, one seed capsule obtained following a self-pollination resulted in 12 soft seeds. These seeds were sown and nine plants grew. Of these nine, 7 are the same phenotype as *Iris setosa* and this is confirmed by the chromosome count of $2n=38$. The other two are still an enigma since they resemble no other species and have both $2n=116$ or $2n=118$ chromosomes (studies are still conducted but chromosome count seems unstable). The flowers they produce are very large and the plants are very vigorous and fully fertile. For the moment, we call them DOM-F2.

Remontant Iris

Bob Maddern (Australia)

The ability to rebloom should not be looked upon as a freak or an oddity but as part of the natural variation of the iris. Many species such as *I. Subbiflora*, *I. variegata*, and *I. chamaeiris* have been observed to rebloom. Reblooming or remontancy should be viewed as part of nature's variety and, just as we select for good form, substance, and color in our cultivars, so too should we select for the capacity to flower over a wider season. Strictly, remontancy is defined as the ability to flower a second time other than during the normal spring blooming season. As any one rhizome does not rebloom but terminates in a bloom stalk, this is somewhat of a misnomer and should be lost as it leads one to think about the problem in the wrong way. Remontancy refers to the ability of a clone to flower out of season, not a particular rhizome.

Before remontancy can be seen in perspective, it is first necessary to appreciate the normal growth pattern of tall bearded irises. At the end of the flowering season the spent flower stalk which terminates the growth of that rhizome is visible, and at the sides of this terminal spike are the small fans, buds, or possibly only swellings which will develop into young shoots. It is from these shoots that the daughter rhizomes produce some 12 to 16 leaves each, and on a well grown plant they will reach maturity by the end of January (in Australia). A rhizome is mature when it is carrying 6-7 full size leaves, that is, it has reached a size large enough to be able to flower. Rhizomes with fewer leaves are unlikely to be able to flower.

About the end of January a change occurs to the growth pattern of mature rhizomes. The growing point, or apical meristem, down in the center of the leaves changes from a pointed dome of dividing cells that produces the conical leaf buds to a broad flat floral dome or apex. This change, visible only with a microscope, marks the end of vegetative growth and the beginning of flower formation. Rhizomes at this stage are said to have undergone initiation. Under conditions in Canberra the end of January is the earliest time at which initiation can be observed, but it continues to occur in subsequently maturing rhizomes until April or May.

It is likely that a bearded iris, as in Dutch irises, tulips, and daffodils, initiation is triggered by experiencing a period of high temperature after maturity. This correlates well with the commonly held view that rhizomes need a good summer baking to produce flowers. The apparent summer dormancy may be no more than the result of the transition from a vegetative apex to a floral one. Once initiation has occurred, the last six or so leaf initials do not expand into mature leaves until late winter or spring so that the rhizome appears dormant. The only evidence that high temperature causes initiation in bearded irises comes from an experiment of Dr. McGarvey who transferred irises into a heated glass house and observed that many were induced to flower. No doubt the glass house altered many conditions but, amongst

others it provided the high temperature to cause initiation of mature rhizomes and, provided other conditions were favorable, they flowered.

After initiation, microscopic changes can be observed in the flower apex. Firstly, the outer three petal buds appear on the edge of the clone, and then the inner whorl of three buds, followed by the anthers, and lastly the stigma. First, one flower develops, then others by the side of it, and by the end of autumn the inflorescence is completely formed in miniature, the whole structure, flower buds and stem being only a millimeter or so long. The development of the inflorescence from the broad flat floral apex is termed differentiation, but little is known of the factors that promote or inhibit this development. The tiny inflorescence or bloom stalk remains at the tip of the rhizome tightly covered by the last formed leaf initials right through the winter.

During winter vernalization occurs; this is a chilling response needed in order to allow the tiny inflorescence to expand (elongate) into the familiar bloom stalk in spring. It is common knowledge that irises need to be grown in climates experiencing a cool period in winter if they are to flower regularly. Usually a climate with at least some frosty period is recommended, and they do not flower well beyond the Tropic of Capricorn.

Though elongation cannot occur until after vernalization, it also requires increasing day length as found in Spring. There is much evidence on this point, both from analogy with research on Dutch iris and tulips in Holland and direct evidence with bearded irises from several people in the United States. These people have all been able to induce out of season flowering of tall bearded irises by artificially increasing the day length during autumn or winter providing proof that elongation is promoted by long days. However, increased day length in late summer will not cause elongation even though the inflorescence is present because vernalization has not yet occurred.

In summary, flowering is at least a four step process. Initiation of mature rhizomes is promoted by the high temperatures of summer and this is followed by differentiation to present to produce a miniature spike by the end of autumn. Vernalization by low temperatures experienced over the winter is necessary before the increasing day length of spring is able to promote elongation, or flowering. Consideration of these requirements allows not only an understanding of normal flowering but also of reblooming, or more descriptively, flowering out of season.

Just as all irises are not alike in flower characteristics, so too, they are not identical in amount of heat or cold needed to promote flowering. For example BRILLIANT SUNRISE (Stevens 1965) requires a little summer baking to cause initiation and is best planted under light shade or else it tends to bloom out as all the rhizomes initiate. Likewise, some irises require little vernalization and will flower in Florida (and Queensland?) but most will not.

Now consider remontant irises. If a variety has lost the need for long days to promote elongation, then it will flower in late autumn or winter as soon as enough cool (vernalization) temperatures have been experienced; it does not need to wait until spring. This is perhaps the most common type of remontant

iris, for example COMO SURPRISE, CAYENNE CAPERS, etc. and may be referred to as warm temperature rebloomers (WTRb's). They are of use in mild climates but a disaster in cool regions such as Northern America, England or Canberra, where winter freezes or frost destroy the bloom stalk.

Another type of remontant iris is that which has lost the requirement for vernalization as well as that for long days. These are called cool temperature rebloomers (CTRb's). They initiate in summer, differentiate and flower straight away and tend to give a very long season or repeated bloom through summer and autumn, for example, GOLDEN ENCORE, FALL PRIMROSE, and AUTUMN MIST, bloom several times from late January until April or May when stopped by frosts in Canberra. Under milder conditions such as in Adelaide they continue to flower during winter, presumably from rhizomes that had initiated when it was still warm enough to do so. In many cases these irises flower on increases which developed after the first period of summer bloom, hence it is essential that they be well fertilized and watered through summer and autumn. The CTRb's are more useful in that they flower over a much wider period of the year but bloom stalks are still wasted by frosts in early winter.

The ideal remontant would be one that not only flowered all summer long but was able to recognize winter and so stop before the bloom stalks were wasted or aborted by the winter frosts (or freezes). Such a variety would not have a requirement for vernalization but would still have enough of a day-length requirement to prevent elongation from occurring during the shorter days of late autumn and winter so saving this bloom for spring. This is the pattern I am electing my seedlings for now.

At the present time the gardener can choose irises that will flower all summer, autumn, and in warm temperate climates, most of winter provided they are well grown. In the future the choice of irises that will flower over a wide season will be just as much a consideration as flower, color, substance, and form. Indeed, who would choose a rose that flowered only in spring, yet once this was also the common pattern. Whether the two types of irises ETRb's and CTRb's, continue to be developed, (or, indeed, the ideal I describe), are exciting developments for the future, but in either case, quality in remontants is rapidly improving and often matches that in once bloomers.

(Presented at Victoria Region Warragul Symposium, in 1981. Taken from The Iris Society of Australia Yearbook, 1982). Request for reprinting made by Patsy Rosen of Texas.

Standard Dwarfs in Massachusetts

Lucy Burton (Massachusetts)

New England is a fantasyland for SDBs, so my husband John and I enjoy our favorite iris class in an area of optimal growth. This year was no exception. From May 4 when BABY TEARS (Weiler), a soft yellow amoena, opened until mid-June when GOLDEN FAIR (Warburton) closed up in its shady nook 160 varieties bounced forth.

Even before bloom season begins these perky dwarfs show diverse personalities. The foliage is bright in color and assumes different patterns. There is the classic "put your wagons in a circle" habit. Some plants climb all over each other reaching for the light. Others such as the unusually colored duo SILVER RAIN (Sobek), grey with green lines on the falls, and WILLOW MIST (Weiler), olive green with bright blue beards, form a tight formation and march towards the lawn. Because of cleaning the guest beds following the Median Muster many of our own clumps didn't get divided. Instead of sulking because of overcrowding they performed nicely although several shook their petals at me as I passed.

Blue was a bright motif for 1990 as the highlight of the season was the striking blue mound of SAPPHIRE GEM (Schmelzer) each individual flower visible within the group. FROSTY SKY (Warburton) contributed ruffles and pale coloring with aqua hafts while SAPPHIRE JEWEL (Hamblen) was a shade darker with medium blue beards. Another lightly ruffled blue is JESSE LEE (Lankow), and the tailored WATERBOY (Sobek) features blue veins on the medium blue background. RAIN DANCE (B. Jones) is the deepest shade with bluebird coloring. We haven't yet found a navy blue as the darker colorations seem to be purple.

The very dark purples are MICHAEL PAUL (W. Jones) and the heavily ruffled rampant JEWEL BABY (Hall). JEWEL BABY doesn't fall bloom for us, but the heavy spring growth is a characteristic of the remontants. LITTLE EPISODE (Rawlins) is also dark, but has a lighter edging on the falls. Listed as red violet, but more purple in tone in our 6.5 ph soil, IMBRI (D. Johnson) has blue rays spreading into the falls. The most enthusiastic growing SDB in our garden is GRAPESICLE (Sobek) bright purple with a violet fall spot.

The lighter lavender shades are actually provided by a "fancy" plicata and luminatas. ROSY AIR (Warburton), the "fancy," blooms very early in a bed along the driveway, and I fall in love with it every spring. LILAC AND LAVENDER (Greenlee by S. Varner) increases rapidly and has won people over to the luminata pattern. VIOLET LULU (Warburton) is in a partially shaded area, therefore it blooms later in the season, the crisp petals holding as if they had been dipped in starch.

A variety of shades turn up in the plicatas overlaid on different backgrounds. There is the soft lavender on cream of CHUBBY CHEEKS (Black) and the more contrasty red violet on cream of PAL SAM (Gatty) both with

rounded falls. Bright white WIRE RIM (D. Sindt) is narrowly edged purple while NIMBLE TOES (Blyth) is mainly purple on a white ground and sports an orange beard. The color combinations change as HEE HAW (Innerst) has rust on cream and is followed in the season by the new yellow ground plicata with dark brown markings, RUSTY DUSTY (Hager).

Yellow appeared early in the season with the intense hue of SUN DOLL (B. Jones). Later THRICE BLESSED (Weiler), a tailored medium yellow with a blue beard began to flower followed by ruffled primose, SARAH TAYLOR (Taylor) bearing a more bushy blue beard. ORANGE CAPER (Warburton) is a bright golden blend topped by an intense orange beard. Another rapidly increasing plant is the gold EYEBRIGHT (Taylor) with brown rays spreading across the falls.

The white irises differ more than gardeners might expect. WHITE GEM (Roberts) is an older tailored variety with a great deal of substance. It is slower growing than many of the newer ones but is still very reliable. It has a great habit of opening an extra blossom after it seems to have finished blooming. PURE ALLURE (Ritchie) is a ruffled white with a white beard, while its ruffled parent FRIDAY'S CHILD has a light blue beard. A darker bushy blue beard is offered by SERENITY PRAYER (P. Dyer) a cream-white blend. The British Dykes winning BIBURY (Taylor) is a gleaming opaque white with yellow hafts—enjoyed not only for itself—but also for use in hybridizing. BELLE PLAINE (Lankow) is a delightful ivory cream with rounded petals, while SOFT AIR (Warburton) is cream with yellow tints.

The most progress seems to have been made with flowers of orange and peach. After ORANGE TIGER (B. Jones) bloomed so well at the 1989 Median Muster we discarded our muddy colored oranges. New to the garden was the lightly ruffled PATACAKE (Black), medium orange with four buds. BROAD GRIN (Lankow) is a very ruffled peachy-pink-cream blend. KANDI MOON and OLADI (Blyth) are coral blends from Australia. KANDI MOON is brighter with broader petals; OLADI's smaller flowered and grows more vigorously. LIVE JAZZ (Lankow) is an orange-coral bitone with electric orange beards. BALLET SLIPPERS (Willott) is a shorter, soft apricot. TILLIE (Shoop) strives towards pink with an apricot overlay on pink petals.

The only true pink SDBs in our garden are BETSY BOO (Warburton) dating from the mid 1970's and the recently introduced PINK PANTHER (Willott), pink with apricot hafts. The PINK PANTHER blossom looked frail; but after a day-old flower stood up to a day and a half of rain with only a slight curl on one fall, its durability was proved.

We grow several fine yellow amoenas, but the only "regular" blue amoena is SPLIT DECISION (Hobbs). It too passed the "rain test" with flying colors.

A mixture of sunny and shady locations for the plants helped provide a long season of bloom. By the 20th of May the IBs had kicked in, and when the MTBs joined the chorus there were still SDBs showing off. Species such as *I. cretata* and *I. verna* added harmony to the SDB fantasyland.

“Tops” These Last 20 Years!

Stan Coates (California)

Is “newly introduced” a sound criteria on which to select tall bearded iris varieties as replacement plants for the garden? Should new varieties be given preferred status to irises selected annually by the membership of the American Iris Society as the most popular because of their blend of bloom, growth characteristics, resistance to disease, and ability to reproduce?

If one were to analyze the annual popularity poll—1971 through 1991 (20 years) he or she would find the names of 14 varieties of tall bearded irises that had been selected on each poll. BLUE SAPPHIRE (Schreiners 53) would be the oldest. Others are AMETHYST FLAME (1956); CUP RACE (1962); WINE AND ROSES and WINTER OLYMPICS (1963); STEPPING OUT (1964); CAMELOT ROSE, CHRISTMAS TIME, and DEBBY RAIRDON (1965); BABBLING BROOK (1966); DUSKY DANCER (1967); and GALA MADRID, NEW MOON, and PINK TAFFETA (1968).

However, just for fun, decide that you are interested in only those irises placing from one through ten in each of the polls. Your analysis would show you that STEPPING OUT (Schreiners 1964) had been in each of the 20 polls, basically as the most popular, the next most popular, or the third most popular. In second position would be DEBBY RAIRDON on 12 polls, and tied for third are GOING MY WAY, MARY FRANCES, and MYSTIQUE with eleven. Others that have been placed in the top ten often are KILT LILT, NEW MOON, and SHIPSHAPE (10 polls); BRIDE'S HALO and VANITY (9 polls); BEVERLY SILLS and VICTORIA FALLS: (8 polls); BABBLING BROOK and PINK TAFFETA (7 polls); WINTER OLYMPICS (6 polls); and CUP RACE, DUSKY DANCER, LACED COTTON, and SONG OF NORWAY (5 polls).

Taking your analysis one step further—suppose that you decided to purchase the top 25 iris varieties participating in the 20 polls (1971 through 1990). Which varieties would you buy? Your basis for choosing the varieties might be their placings over 10 of the 20 years involved, the average of each of their placings if on the polls 5 years and less than 10, and the non selection of any variety not selected on five occasions. Your purchases would include: WINTER OLYMPICS, CUP RACE, and LACED COTTON as white varieties; BRIDE'S HALO, DEBBY RAIRDON, and JOYCE TERRY—all combinations of white and yellow; LEMON MIST and NEW MOON as lemon yellows; BEVERLY SILLS and VANITY as pink varieties and PINK TAFFETA and LAURIE both listed as shades of rose pink. Your blues would include SONG OF NORWAY (very light but with a dark blue beard); BABBLING BROOK, SHIPSHAPE, and VICTORIA FALLS; a bi-color blue purple; MYSTIQUE: MARY FRANCES, a blue-orchid; two purple and white plicatas: GOING MY WAY and STEPPING OUT; and TITAN'S GLORY whose blooms are Bishop Purple in color. Your four remaining choices would be COPPER CLASSIC, described as Spanish orange; KILT LILT basically a combination of gold, brown and maroon; DUSKY

DANCER a black violet and CAMELOT ROSE a bi-color of silvery lilac and red or burgundy. This assortment would not include all of today's colors or any of the new space age varieties. However, your garden will be beautiful because these are truly time-tested irises.

Although the period of 1971 through 1990 may be described as a Schreiner-Stepping Out favored period, the 25 varieties above were introduced in eight different regions of the United States. Eleven came from Region 14, seven from Region 13, two from Region 9, and one each from Regions 1, 7, 12, 15, and 18. Four of these had been introduced by Schreiners, two each by Ben Hager, Larry Gaulter, Jim Gibson, Walt Luihn, and Nathan Rudolph, and singles by Opal Brown, Kuntz, Tompkins, Babson, Ghio, Keppel, Buttrick, H. Mohr, Muhlestein, Sexton, and Roderick. Certainly many of the iris society's recent-pioneer hybridizers.

The 1990 poll reported in the January, 1990, issue of the American Iris Society Bulletin indicated only 10 irises qualifying for the poll's roster for the first time. The registration dates on these irises included the years: 1982, '83, '84, and '86. TITAN'S GLORY, the youngest of the 25 irises you purchased, lists a registration date of 1981—just one year prior to one of the new 1990 poll members. TITAN'S GLORY had been selected a member of five previous polls to the 1990 listing.

Of the ten irises making their initial appearance in 1990, Ben Hager's EDITH WOLFORD rated membership in the poll's top 10%. Schreiners' DUSKY CHALLENGER as well as EDITH WOLFORD are included in the upper 25%. Membership on the popularity poll is an honor that many irises are nominated for but only the most perfect rate.

Fine Performers for a Few Dollars

Robert L. Jensen (Idaho)

One of the first Bulletins I received after joining The American Iris Society in the late 1940's contained a splendid article written by Mrs. Lila McCombs of Hughson, California. She called it "A Critical Evaluation of Older Irises" and that is just what it was. The irises were the proven varieties of the day and each one had some special characteristic that made it a worthwhile choice for a new irisarian. Some were no longer so desirable for show beds, but were tall, good growers that were valuable for background planting. One or two were ideal for arrangements, but one thing they had in common, all were inexpensive and suited to a new iris grower who was not quite ready yet to spend \$10 to \$20 for some of the newer ones.

Although I had grown irises for a while, I was just discovering the wonderful catalogs from Schreiners, Cooley's and National Iris Gardens, and that remarkable list from Fair Chance Farm, containing more irises than I had ever dreamed existed. Most of the earlier day classic irises were in that list, and how some of us who are interested in certain "oldies" would enjoy having access to such a list now. I decided that these were certainly the irises I would

like to grow and began to acquire some of them and eventually I did grow most of them. A few varieties did not do very well in my climate, being more suited to Mrs. McCombs' California conditions, but most of them did well. I believe I enjoyed seeing those irises bloom for the first time as much as any I have ever grown. The big, rose colored LIGHTHOUSE, chocolaty colored LOUVOIS from France, the beautiful dark blue NARAIN and creamy NATIVIDAD, and the unusual red violet ANNA ELVIRO NASH were much enjoyed. Although these were the older irises of the day, to me they were brand new.

Mrs. McCombs admitted to no favorite among her irises, but her favorite of the very old irises was PERSIA. This variety was introduced by Dr. Ayres in 1929 and is a blend of greys and blues and violets. Thanks to that list from Fair Chance Farm, I was able to acquire this variety. As the years passed by and the parade of finer new irises continued to come, those old favorites were gradually discarded to make room for the new ones. PERSIA seemed just a little different in color, in addition it grew well even when somewhat neglected and it stayed in the garden although it was almost the oldest iris on the list. And you know what, it is still here, plain and old fashioned but just a little different in color from anything else. It will probably be in my garden as long as I grow irises.

Sometimes I wonder if there are new members coming into the Society who are a little overwhelmed by the great numbers of newer irises as I was and not just sure what they would like to grow. Although there are probably no irises these days for the 35¢ to 50¢ that Mrs. McCombs suggested, there are many fine irises available for \$2 or \$3 which would enhance any iris garden. After all, the price of an iris has nothing to do with its beauty, its ability to grow well or the fact that it is different from the others, it is determined by the amount of stock available.

There is limited stock of the new varieties so they cost more. As more plants become available, the prices gradually come down and eventually every variety reaches the inexpensive, old favorite stage, but that doesn't make them any less beautiful or desirable for an iris garden.

I would like to mention a few varieties that have been excellent performers in a cold country garden. With one or two exceptions they are all now down in the inexpensive "old favorite" class.

CATALYST is early to bloom and this brilliant yellow self is a most dependable garden iris. CORN HARVEST is perhaps better known for its fall blooming tendencies, though the flowers are not large, there are many of them and this lively yellow is well worth a place in the spring garden. CRYSTAL BLUE is a clear blue that has stood the test of time; it always performs well and makes fine stalks. DREAM TOUCH is a personable pink and cream beauty that deserves to be more widely grown.

One of the best performing irises in the garden is DUTCH TREAT. This outstanding greenish tinted cream is worthy of the highest awards. ESTHER FAY is an older pink that is fairly short, but it is hardy and vigorous and very

reliable. FIRE CHIEF is another that is old now but this tall red and yellow iris is still valuable as a background iris; it has great garden value. GOLD GALORE—Such a fine deep yellow, it always grows well and blooms reliably. The big wide flowers of HIGH LIFE almost seem to belong in an exotic jungle setting. It is another fine older plicata in red and yellow.

There are a number of lemon and cream irises available these days, but LEMON MIST is still one of the better ones even though it is now as cheap as an iris can get. MADIERA BELLE is a heavily ruffled and fluted white that grows well in a cold climate, something that many white irises do not do.

Such a beautiful lavender and white iris as MARY FRANCES should always be grown. And thanks to the Dykes Medal it has received it probably will. MINISA is a “different” red, almost a red blend. It is tall and reliable and always seems to bloom.

MULLED WINE—The burnt orange beards on this distinctive burgundy rose blend make a unique combination. Not yet quite into the \$2 category, but it is so different. PACIFIC MIST is one of my favorites among the blues, a light blue that is a tremendously strong grower, and it is one of the most fragrant of all irises.

PEARL CHIFFON is a lavender so pale it appears almost white, an exquisite iris that is like no other. The growth habits are exemplary. SERENE DUET would probably be worth growing just for its interesting buds but they open into a fine light yellow and white bicolor. SILENT MAJESTY is well named. This dark violet iris produces gorgeous clumps and has been an outstanding performer.

SONG OF NORWAY features tall, fine show-type stalks on a vigorous plant; the flowers are pale blue with blue beards.

STEPPING OUT—This sharp clean violet and white plicata has received all the honors that AIS can bestow. It has produced many children but has not actually been superseded.

VICTOR HERBERT—This ruffled light blue is one of the very best. It is an easy, healthy grower that blooms freely. VITAFIRE is not ruffled, but it is a good bright red that is a better performer than many of the highly touted reds. It blooms quite well in shade and looks especially nice there. VANITY is pink and cream and gorgeous in a clump. It is one of the best pinks for vigor.

WEDDING VOW is tall and elegant, and it always performs well. It is an exceptionally fine white for a cold climate garden. I was slow to discover JOYCE TERRY, but I’m glad I finally did. It is one of the brightest white and yellow combinations around and seems to sparkle in the sun.

Fragrance, Anyone?

Libby Cross (Virginia)

Floral fragrance is a strange and wonderful thing. Roses, carnations, gardenias, jasmine, just about any flower you can name, each has its own distinctive scent. Ah, but not our treasured iris! As beauty is said to be in the eye of the beholder, so iris fragrance is in the nose of the sniffer!

For many years the AIS Round Robin Program has included Fragrance Robins, although none of these is flying at present. Those of us who are interested in whether an iris smells good, bad, or not at all, have covered reams of paper with reports on what various irises smell like to each of us. Trying to put together a resume of these reports, however, has always posed this one teeny problem: few people can ever agree on what any one iris smells like!

Everyone perceives odors differently. This presents no problem with flowers such as the above-mentioned roses, carnations, etc., but irises have so many different scents that they are hard to pin down. They have been variously described as sweet, spicy, citrusy, licorice, musty, mustardy, clove, jasmine, and so forth, right down to tom-cats and just plain yuk! What smells delicious to one, may be yuk to another.

There has even been a numerical system of rating iris scent devised, but it makes very dull reading to list irises as 9s, or 7s, or whatever.

Just trying to decide what an iris smells like to you can be tricky. It depends on so many things: the wind, the weather, the time of day, the freshness of the blossom, whether you have a cold, are on medication, or are a smoker. The scent of any one iris can vary from garden to garden, and even from one spot to another in the same garden. Growing conditions seem to have some influence on iris fragrance.

Still, there are those of us who persist in trying to pin down these elusive scents and present them to other fragrance lovers in the form of reports or excerpts to Flight Lines in the Bulletin. To do this we need input from everyone, everywhere. If at least three different people can agree that any one iris smells a certain way, or smells good, or bad, it should be safe to go with this decision in a report.

To this end, we are starting a whole new series of fragrance robins this fall. If you would like to join one and start sniffing and reporting next spring, (or even this fall if you have rebloomers), send your name, address, and a brief autobiography to:

Libby Cross
Route 4, Box 399-M
Covington, VA 24426

or you may send the same information to the AIS Robin Director, Emma Hobbs, whose address is listed in the Bulletin. I hope many of you will join.

There is one fragrance I have not mentioned until now. It is what I call "irisy." If you have ever helped with clean up after an iris show that was held in an enclosed area and smelled the lingering potpourri of iris scents, you'll know what I classify as true iris fragrance.

Observations on the Longevity of Tall Bearded Iris Seed

Leonard P. Stoltz (Kentucky)

One occasionally reads articles which indicate that iris seeds will remain viable for many years. Usually the seeds were planted in soil and are reported to have been found still in apparently good condition as much as 12 years after having been planted. Iris seeds do have a delayed germination and may germinate over several years. Seed can be saved from one year to the next or for several years before planting. Some degree of germinative ability is lost with each year of storage. The conditions under which seeds are stored will definitely affect the length of time they can be stored. Most seeds are best stored at cool temperatures with low relative humidity. Home storage of seeds is usually most successful if the seeds are placed in a sealed container and kept in the refrigerator.

In the years 1966 to 1970 I did a considerable amount of work involving the culturing of tall bearded iris embryos excised from the seed both to study the delayed germination of the seed and to develop the methodologies for successful isolation and growth of the embryos. By the use of embryo culture the iris breeder can grow all of his progeny and have them available for evaluating in 2 years from the time the crosses are made. In fact, a larger number of progeny will result from embryo culture than by planting the seeds outside or starting them in a greenhouse since almost 100% of the embryos will develop into plants. In culturing iris embryos, I often observed embryos which were very weak and/or mishappen and the plantlets developed very slowly; I am of the opinion that these embryos would have never developed into plants if they had not been excised and cultured in vitro. An article entitled "Simplified Iris Embryo Culture" which I wrote in 1967 appears on pages 90-98 of the Society's Bulletin No. 167.

There was a rather large number of seeds from crosses made in 1969 which were left over after my research work for that year was completed. Rather than throw the seeds away I placed them in a jar and set them in the back of a file drawer in my office and that is where they remained for 20 years. The jar was not sealed although the relative humidity in my office is normally quite low and the temperature remains fairly constant between 72-77 degrees year-round except for an occasional heating or cooling system failure over this period. On several occasions I had considered throwing the seeds away but just never did. When I looked at them last spring and realized they were 20 years old I decided I would like to know if iris seeds that old could be germinated or if plants could be developed by the embryo culture techniques I had used in the past.

Twelve lots of 100 seeds each were selected. Four lots were treated with concentrated sulfuric acid for 1 hour, soaked in running tapwater for 3 days and then placed in a moist sand and peatmoss mixture and placed in a

refrigerator for 60 days. At the end of this time they were sown in sterilized growing medium and placed in a greenhouse maintained at a day/night temperature of 75/65 degrees. The remaining 8 lots of seed were also treated with acid, soaked in running tapwater for 3 days and the embryos excised and placed on culture medium in glass tubes. The tubes were placed on a shelf in a growth room and provided with 16 hours of light daily from coolwhite fluorescent lamps. The room was maintained at 72 degrees. The results are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1. Plants resulting from lots of 100, 20 year-old iris seeds planted in a growing medium in a greenhouse.

<i>Date Planted</i>	<i>Lot No.</i>	<i>Date Counted</i>	<i>No. Plants Living</i>	<i>Average Percent</i>
4/7/89	1	9/30/89	2	
4/7/89	2	9/30/89	0	
4/7/89	3	9/30/89	0	
4/7/89	4	9/30/89	0	0.5

Table 2. Plants resulting from excising the embryos from lots of 100, 20 year-old iris seeds and planting them in sterile culture.

<i>Date Excised</i>	<i>Lot No.</i>	<i>Date Counted</i>	<i>No. Plants Living</i>	<i>Average Percent</i>
4/7/89	1	7/14/89	59	
4/11/89	2	7/14/89	24	
4/26/89	3	7/27/89	43	
5/3/89	4	7/27/89	47	
5/26/89	5	8/22/89	39	
6/7/89	6	8/22/89	28	
6/12/89	7	9/14/89	52	
6/29/89	8	9/14/89	41	
		TOTAL	313	39.1

Nothing can be said of the seeds planted to the greenhouse other than that only two of them resulted in plants. However, several comments can be made relative to the longevity of tall bearded iris seeds since the development of the excised embryos could be observed during in vitro culture. Many of the embryos were dead since no response was noticed. Some showed various degrees of greening and swelling but no further development occurred. Others turned green and developed roots of various lengths but never produced a shoot. A few developed a weak root and the start of a shoot but when removed from the tube and planted to a sterile growing medium in the greenhouse they died. The plants resulting from the excised embryos exhibited various degrees of development and vitality and even after transplanting to the greenhouse this trend was evident. These observations of the development of the excised embryos into plants indicate that the order of debilitating effects of age on iris seeds are as follows: 1) A loss of vigor in

growth especially of the shoot, but less so for the root. 2) Complete loss of the ability to form a shoot, roots though weak will still form. 3) Loss of root-forming ability, but a few cells are still alive as evidenced by greening and an increase in size, and 4) Death of all cells, no response occurs other than water imbibition.

(Leonard P. Stoltz is a member of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.)

Follow-Up on Ruth Holleyman

Joe Mertzweiller (Louisiana)

Chromosome counts by Sam Norris as reported in the April, 1990 Bulletin (No. 277) indicates the Louisiana iris RUTH HOLLEYMAN to be a diploid with 43 somatic chromosomes. This iris was originally reported to be triploid by Mr. G. W. Holleyman who collected it in extreme southwest Louisiana in the early 1950's. The 1954 AIS registration notes: RUTH HOLLEYMAN (Holleyman, G. 1954) 50-60", VB 1. Soft blue self, orange-yellow midrib paling to white. Triploid. Collected *I. gigantea-caerulea*. HM (1955). Much confusion exists regarding the triploid nature of this iris. Following is some information I have recently obtained and which I hope will dispel some of the confusion.

I became acquainted with RH through the late Prof. Claude Davis. In 1953 I bought some diploid Louisianas from Claude to try my hand at growing and hybridizing since it is virtually impossible to grow the bearded irises in south Louisiana.

It now appears almost certain that Mr. Holleyman collected at least two different irises, one the true triploid RH, and the other a similar large *I. gigantea-caerulea*, the 43 chromosome iris which was also distributed under the name RH. This can happen very easily. The irises grow in the wild as a tangled mass of rhizomes in very gummy, "gumbo" soil. There are many clones, and it is very difficult to tell where each clone begins and ends. Holleyman probably collected many plants for distribution and only a few likely had blooms. It was unlikely that he could distinguish one bloom from another after the batch was collected. The plants were probably distributed among several collectors and enthusiasts. Three most likely recipients were Ira "Ike" Nelson, Caroline Dormon and Charles Arny. I believe it was 1956 that I first saw RH in bloom in Claude Davis' garden, it made a lasting impression and was "locked in" immediately and I got a rhizome from Claude. He cautioned me about problems in growing RH although it seemed to be very vigorous. He also mentioned that Ike Nelson considered it to be a triploid although there was no really scientific evidence at that time. Unfortunately, I was a novice in growing Louisianas in 1956 and my RH promptly died. It had been my grandiose plan to use RH as a pod parent to produce tetraploid Louisianas through unreduced ($3n$) gametes of the triploid. It was Claude Davis who first got me interested in the possibilities that tetraploid Louisianas might offer. I made no further attempts to grow RH until 1984, although I saw it many times in the Society for Louisiana Irises annual show.

Between the latter 1950's and early 1980's I worked diligently on producing tetraploid Louisianas by doubling chromosomes with colchicine. This was ultimately successful and is documented elsewhere (*The Louisiana Iris*, Texas Gardener Press, Waco TX, 1988). Since all tetraploid Louisianas are descended from a very few plants (chimeras), there are some genetic limitations, particularly in color, from extensive inbreeding. Hoping to overcome this by increasing tetraploid variability, I again became interested in RH and the unreduced gamete approach. In 1984-1985 I obtained several plants from "Rusty" (Mrs. Ed) Ostheimer and immediately began hybridizing with these plants. More about this later.

The most significant new information was provided to me by Mr. Ben Hager at the Omaha Convention in 1990. In the late 1950's Mr. Hager had been in contact with Mr. Robert Welshans (Indianapolis, IN) regarding an unusual iris Mr. Welshans found growing on his property sometime earlier. Welshans registered this iris under the name HEXAGON BLUE in 1959, 20", V1B, blue-violet self, white signal, orange-yellow crest. I. brevicaulis.

HEXAGON BLUE was a late midseason bloomer and taller than the usual I. brevicaulis and Hager considered it unusual and sent a plant to Dr. L. F. Randolph for chromosome count. Randolph was very interested and urged Hager to send him any other unusual Louisiana iris, particularly RH which Randolph had heard about being a possible triploid. Hager did not have RH, but obtained plants from Caroline Dormon and sent one to Dr. Randolph. Shortly thereafter Randolph was very excited and reported to Hager that RH was a triploid I. giganticaerulea, the first scientific proof of a triploid Louisiana. This occurred in the late 1950's. Randolph later reported to Hager that Welshans' iris, HEXAGON BLUE was also a triploid; this iris was re-registered as TRIPLE TREAT (Welshans and Hager) in 1972. Thus Dr. Randolph counted chromosomes of both irises in the late 1950's and found both to be triploids.

There is another very important item. Hager attempted some hybridizing with the RH he obtained from Caroline Dormon and which Randolph determined to be triploid. Results were most discouraging. Two seeds from RH as pod parent were embryo cultured in California but were lost in transplanting. All attempts to use RH as pollen parent on diploids failed.

This hybridizing behavior is strongly opposed to the results of Sam Norris and myself on the 43 chromosome RH. Sam used it as a pollen parent on diploids, producing several full seed pods, but considered these results due to contamination and discarded the seeds. In 1984-1985 I produced at least 15 full pods representing about 90% pod set; I bloomed many seedlings but all were obvious diploids. The results of Norris' and my hybridizing likely represent $2n \times 2n$ pollinations and were not due to contamination.

I decided to determine as much as possible about the origin of the 43 chromosome RH. The plants I obtained from Rusty Ostheimer came from a single plant she purchased from Mr. Charles Arny, Jr. about 1962. Mr. Arny's plants came from two sources, one from Mr. Holleyman and another from Ike Nelson, likely obtained from Holleyman. Caroline Dormon's plant (the true triploid) came either directly from Holleyman or through Ike Nelson. This is the

best indication that Holleyman probably collected both irises from the wild on the same collecting trip.

Although it may not contribute much to hybridizing, an important consideration is the possibility of locating the triploid RH. With this in mind I contacted Mr. Marvin Granger of Lake Charles, LA. Marvin is a contemporary of Mr. Holleyman and did much collecting in the southwest Louisiana swamps in the 1950's. He is best known for collecting CREOLE CAN CAN, a semi-double *I. giganteaerulea* which he used in many years of successful hybridizing. Unfortunately, Marvin was not one of the original recipients of RH, and he did not grow it because of his awareness of problems in hybridizing and setting seed. This awareness suggests that at least some of the early recipients had the triploid.

The best possibility for locating the triploid RH probably would be at the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve (Briarwood) at Saline, LA. This is the old home of Caroline Dormon where she grew all her collected plants, including many Louisiana irises. There is a reasonable chance that some of her collected irises are still growing there. The plantings are in excellent condition under the care of Mr. Richard Johnson, currently curator of the garden. Mr. Johnson is very cooperative in such matters and I will contact him as to the possibility of making a search for the iris next spring. The triploid RH is a historical Louisiana iris and well worth efforts to locate.

Youth Membership Contest

Lucy Fry (Kansas)

The January Bulletin contained the newest revision of the membership contest, as approved by the AIS Board at the fall meeting. Responding to requests from the youth that they be allowed in the contest, the Board established a special award for the youth with the most points for new memberships. Points for recruiting youth members is restricted to youth recruiting youth. Adults will not receive points toward the contest. Youth recruiting adults or families will receive points and be governed by the same rules as all other contestants.

I have been disappointed that I have not received any entries from the youth. I was told that youth have secured new members but have not sent them to me. Did you overlook the notice in the January Bulletin on page 87? Points can be awarded after I receive the notice of recruitment. Please, indicate that this is to be entered in the youth contest.

The shows and the convention have shown an increase in numbers of new memberships. There has been an increase in numbers of triennial memberships. Thanks to all who are working to increase AIS membership. Keep up the good work. I hope to hear from youth members soon.

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Signal or Color Spot?

Howard Shockey (New Mexico)

There is a big difference between true signals and color spots or spot patterns as they are sometimes called. The coloration of a color spot is found within the cells, and the surface of the fall is not altered to any extent. In a true signal, the color spot is papillose, meaning covered with minute hair-like structures, each of which is called a papilla. These papillae are not multicellular, but are long extensions of individual cells, which usually assume the shape of inverted ice cream cones or straight bananas. On one *Oncocyclus* species, very long papillae were observed which had rounded spear-like points. In the case of diffuse signals, the papillae usually become shorter and less numerous and then become pyramid or nipple-shaped as the signal diffuses.

Although very crude in preparation, the accompanying microscope photos illustrate the above and also show typical progression and intensification of signals as the oncocyclus content increases. All photos are of the same magnification.

Fig. 1 shows a normal flat fall surface, in which the individual cells are only slightly rounded.

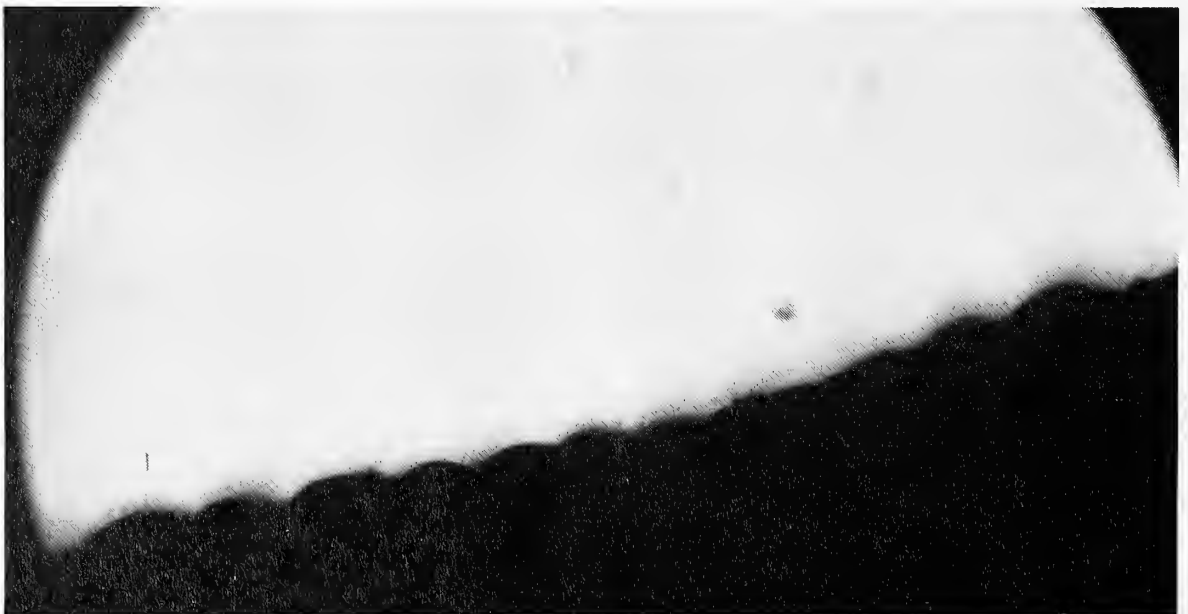


Figure 1

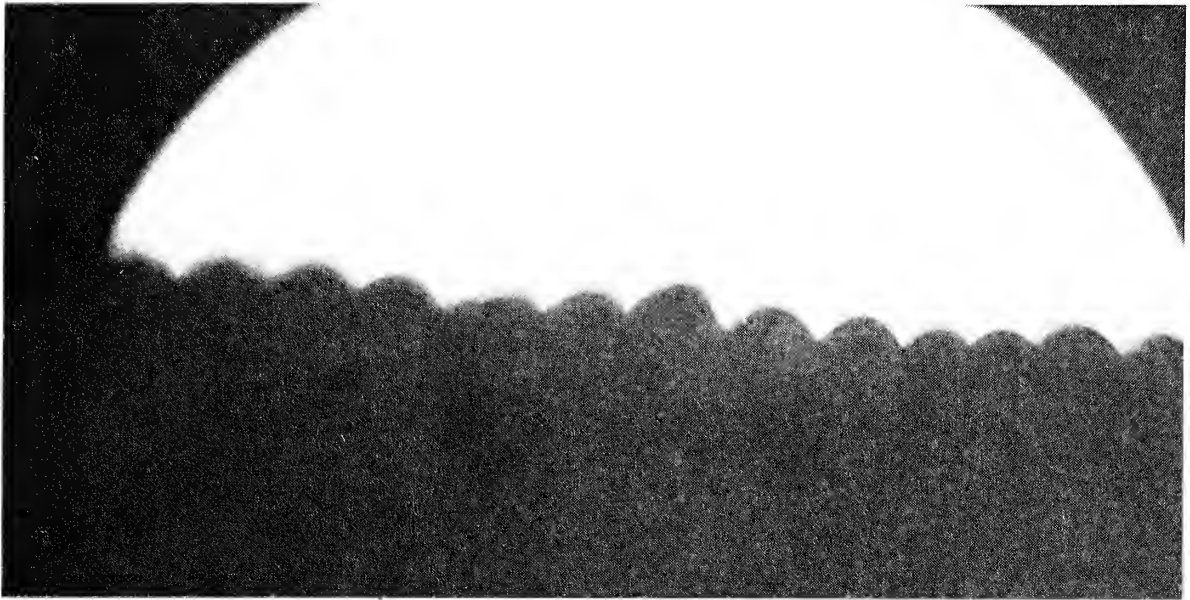


Figure 2



Figure 3

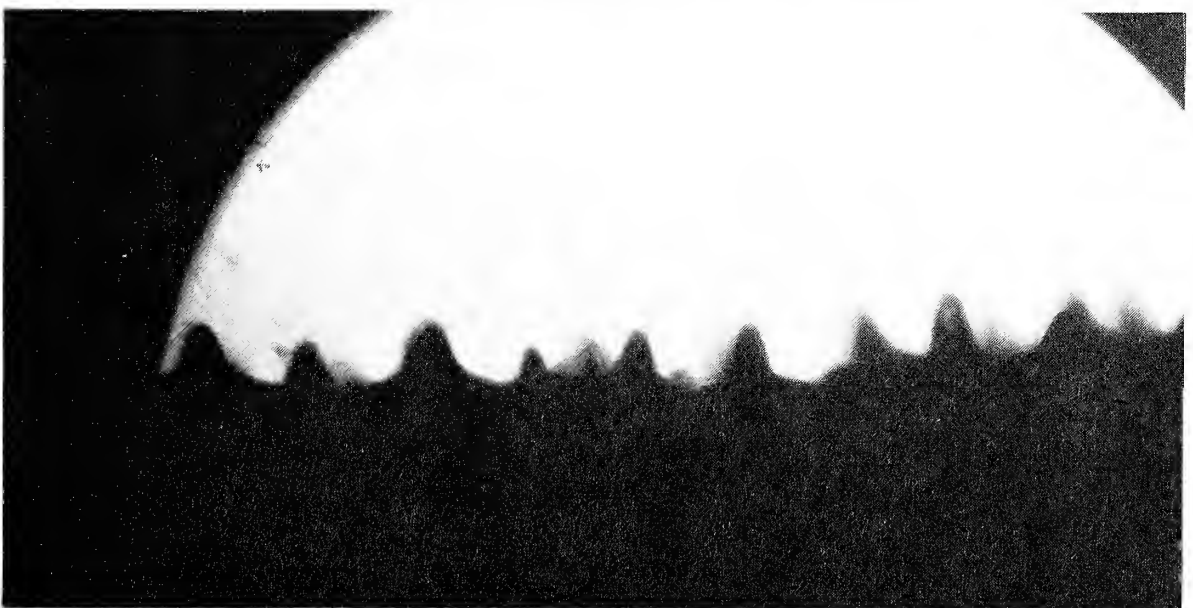


Figure 4

Fig. 2 is the spot pattern area of PANSY HEART, a miniature dwarf from I. pumila breeding. The cells display more roundness on the surface.

Fig. 3 displays a portion of the spot pattern of SOLOMON'S GLORY, an arilbred of $\frac{1}{4}$ aril content. Some cells have assumed a nipple-like form. A very occasional short papilla was observed in other areas of the color spot.

Fig. 4 is typical of most arilbreds having $\frac{1}{2}$ aril content and displays a small signal area. Some cells have developed short papillae, but these are sparsely located. When feeling the signal area lightly with the fingers, a slight roughness may be found on some.

Fig. 5 is from the signal area of one of my $\frac{1}{2}$ aril content seedlings which displays large and sharply defined signals. The papillae are larger and more numerous than in Fig. 4. A slight feeling of short fine velvet is experienced when felt with the fingers.

Fig. 6 represents the signal area of SYRIAN JEWEL, an arilbred of over $\frac{1}{2}$ aril content. Here the papillae are longer and are present on most cells—the velvety feeling is more pronounced.

Fig. 7 is from the signal of a pure oncocyclus hybrid. The papillae are much longer and the velvety feeling is stronger.

So, there *is* a big difference between a true signal and a spot pattern. Signals are first seen in the $\frac{1}{2}$ -breds, many of which could be called "weak signals" because of the smaller size and sparceness of the papillae. Signals such as found in Fig. 5 through Fig. 7 can accurately be called "signals" because of the larger size and concentration of the papillae, which is also reflected in the soft velvety feeling to touch. Dwarfs, SDB's, and arilbreds of $\frac{1}{4}$ aril content can possess color spots or spot patterns, but I have never observed a weak signal or a true signal with well developed papillae on any of these types.

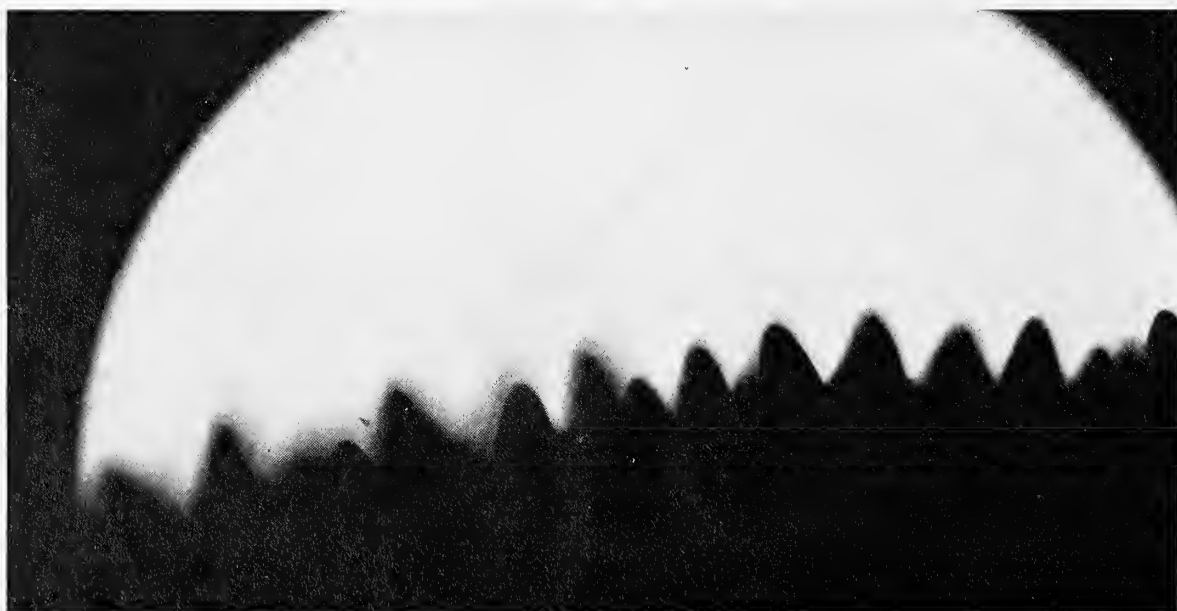


Figure 5

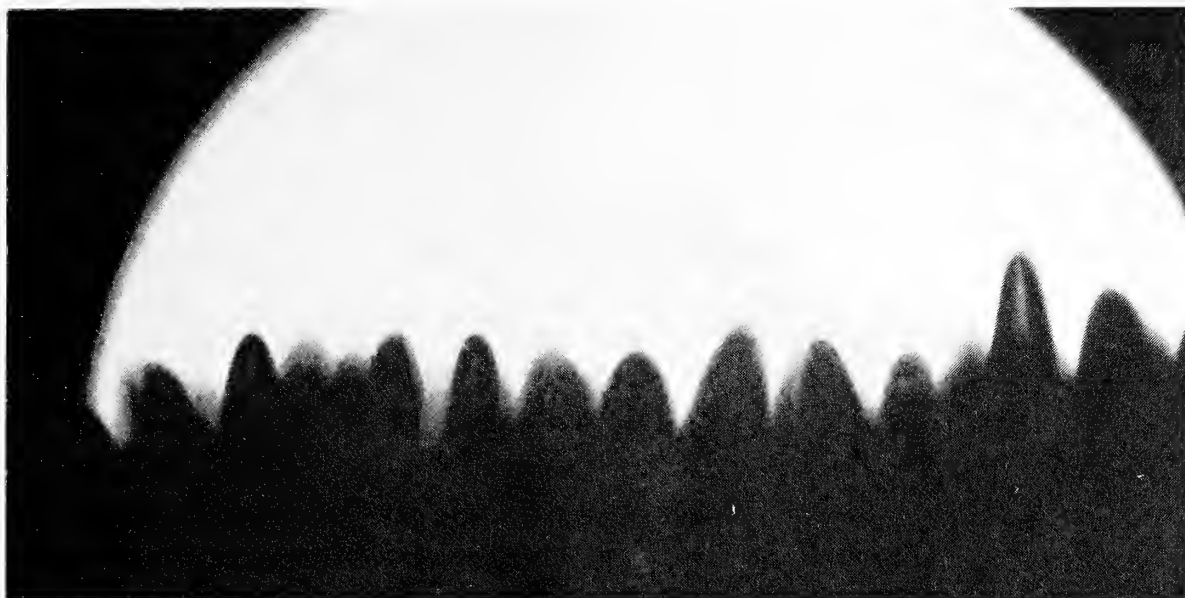


Figure 6

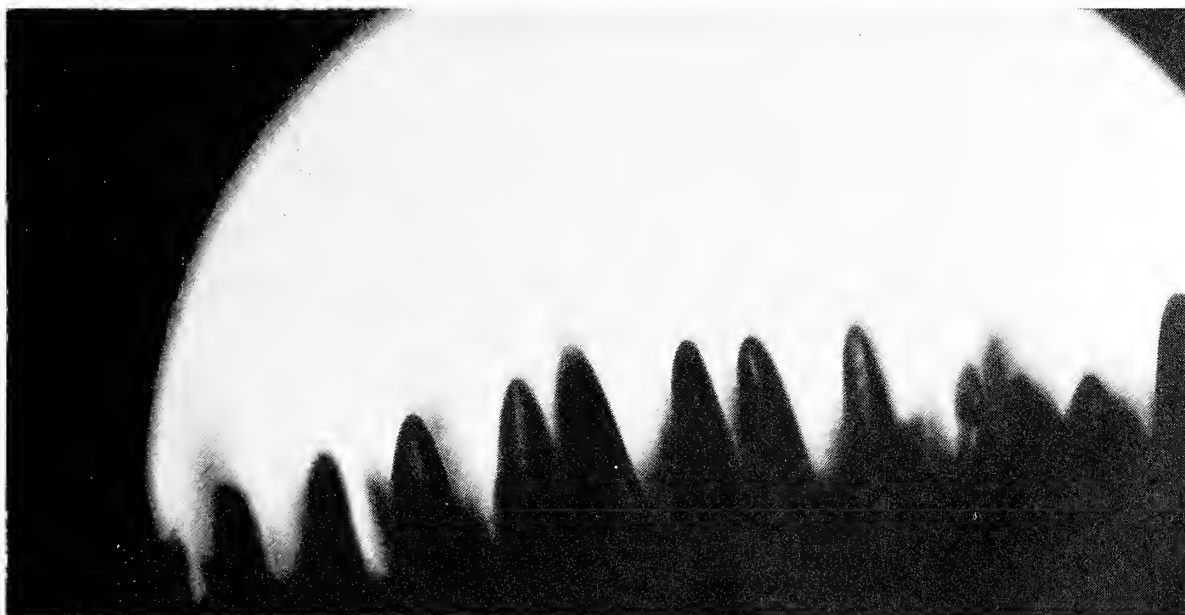


Figure 7

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AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY FOUNDATION: Send to AIS Foundation, Richard T. Pettijohn, Treasurer, 2510 S. 148th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68144. Donations to the Foundation and AIS are tax deductible.

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Omaha, Nebraska

May 20-21, 1990

The spring meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society was called to order at 1:15 p.m., May 20, 1990, by President Kenneth Waite. Present at this and subsequent sessions were: President Waite; Immediate Past President Rasmussen; Second Vice President Copeland; Secretary J. Stayer; Treasurer Corlew; Editor Mullin; Registrar Nelson; Membership Secretary Harlow; Publication Sales Director C.J. Lack; Photo Coordinator L. Stayer; Directors Crick, C. Gates, Gristwood, Hobbs, Lineberger, W. Machulak, Niswonger, Rice-Waters, and Williams; Committee Chairmen Pettijohn, Harder, L. Fry, McEwen, and Shockey; RVPs Pope (1), O'Shea (2), Wilder (5), Morgan (6), Christopher (7), Koza (8), M. Wilhoit (9), B. Aitken (13), Strane (15), Keefe (17), Christlieb (18), McMartin (19), D. Miller (20), Jamieson (22), and Goodnight (23); RVP Representatives M. Lowe (4) and Gilliam (24); Section Representatives C. Boswell (MIS), A. Miller (SSI), Perkins (SIS), J. Fry (DIS), Hall (SPCNI), Rigby (SIGNA), and A. Lowe (HIPS); and guests Doucette and A. Waite (1), Stephenson and Stoneburner (4), Cronin and Verwilt (6), King and Vogt (7), A. Machulak (8), Clough and J. Wilhoit (9), T. Aitken (13), L. Boswell, Erickson, Holloway, Keppel, Maryott, Messick, and Simmons (14), Brewer, Howard, and John (17), Tasco (15), Henderson, Murrain, F. Townsend, M. Townsend, and Waddick (18), Aulicky (19), and D. Gates, Lyons, V. Wiekhorst, and W. Wiekhorst (20). Following introductions and a word of welcome President Waite invited everyone's participation in the discussion but reminded all present that only board members may vote. Waite announced that Recording Secretary Barr was unable to attend and that Gates would record the minutes.

The minutes of the fall Board meeting in Wichita, Kansas, were approved as published in *Bulletin* #276.

President Waite reported that since the fall meeting the executive committee had approved the *Bulletin* contract for '90-'91 with Williams Printing Company with a 3% cost increase; approved sale of membership secretary's typewriter for \$200.00 to Ramsey since the new secretary did not need it; approved expenditures by Dr. Norlan Henderson of \$244.95 and an advance of \$100.00. Waite had sent an invitation to attend the convention to Professor Zhao Yu-Tang of China.

Secretary Stayer reported requests for the Native American Iris flyer have been numerous; Mr. Spain has nearly completed his study of the relationship between the AIS and the AIS Foundation and has started work on the Sections. He is having trouble eliciting any response from some Sections. Stayer urged Section Representatives to respond. Five hundred Judges Handbook covers were purchased for \$1,353.00 plus \$52.63 shipping.

Membership Secretary Harlow thanked former Membership Secretary Ramsey as well as Waite, Stayer, and Maryott for their help with the transition in the membership office. Harlow distributed a written report which listed the April 1, 1990, total AIS membership at 8,113. Harlow received many kudos and a round of applause for the efficient manner in which she has executed her job thus far. In response to questions by Machulak, Harlow noted that backup copies of the membership files are going to the President every 30 days or so, and she is attempting to document the entire operation to ease any future transitions.

Treasurer Corlew noted there was an error in the budget approved last fall. The sub total at the top of page 2 should have read \$23,005.00 instead of \$20,005.00 making a total of \$139,196.00 instead of \$136,196.00. he moved to accept the corrected figure of 139,196.00. Seconded by Niswonger, the motion carried. Corlew reported that the raising of the Postage & Handling allowance last fall had pretty well accomplished the goal of breaking even on publication sales expenses.

Editor Mullin reported that the April *Bulletin* was sent out on schedule. The July issue is still short on material reflecting the problem of continually coming up with new ideas and authors. Several questions were raised about the "Flightlines" column and the need for better coordination to see that material from the robins gets into the *Bulletin*.

Publication Sales Director Lack reported that sales continue to go well. He pointed out the need to think ahead on pricing since another postage increase is due in 1991.

Affiliates Chairman Niswonger thanked the RVPs for the fine job of organizing the affiliates and seeing that the necessary forms were returned to him. Niswonger pointed out that affiliates are a

great way to encourage sustained membership by involving members at the local level. At the current time there are 141 affiliates.

Awards Chairman Copeland reported that his job was going well and he had received a lot of help, especially from his daughter Sue.

Exhibitions Chairman Gristwood said 183 shows had been scheduled with 5 cancellations because of weather or location problems. This is an all time record number of shows.

Historical Chairman Harder noted that his job is collecting anything and everything that has to do with the AIS. He would like to receive all regional publications and all committee reports.

Membership Contest Chairman Fry said the cooperation from the membership secretary has been terrific. She expressed disappointment that after changing the rules to allow youth participation there had not been any entries yet.

Public Relations Chairman Rice-Waters showed several publications with articles about irises that had been printed recently, including one in *M.D. Magazine* featuring Currier McEwen. Use of the display screen and membership flyers at garden and landscape shows really pays off in increased membership and general promotion of the iris. Rasmussen showed a copy of the Ponca City, Oklahoma, Chamber of Commerce brochure which features photographs of irises.

Robins Chairman Hobbs noted that she has only received reports from about 1/3 of the Robin Directors. There are 21 Robins currently listed.

Scholarship Chairman Gates said she had recently received a copy of the Master's thesis from the 1987-88 scholarship winner, Jerry Bricker. In keeping with the guidelines of the scholarship program this thesis will now be turned over to the Scientific Committee. Gates reported that there were 11 very qualified applicants this year. From these the committee selected John Stromberger who will be pursuing a Ph.D. at Purdue University researching genetics and physiology of ammonium assimilation and utilization in maize. Gates notes that there are some members of the committee who feel strongly that a scholarship should not be awarded this year because none of the applicants' fields of study is at all closely related to irises. Several comments were made in support of the idea that the Society's financial support of research in the area of plant sciences benefits us all eventually and that it need not have a direct connection with the genus *Iris*. Gates moved that the 1990-91 AIS scholarship be awarded to John Stromberger. Rice-Waters seconded and the motion passed.

Slides Chairman Shockey reported that 2 sets of slides had been lost in the mail. Corlew moved that the slides chairman be authorized to make duplicate sets of those sets he judges to be most critical. Niswonger seconded and the motion carried. After discussion Lineberger moved the rental fee for slide sets be raised to \$7.50, effective January 1, 1991. Niswonger seconded and the motion passed. Shockey asked for clarification on the cost of sending slides overseas. The consensus was that as long as there are only a few requests per year the Society will absorb the extra cost of shipment overseas as a gesture of good will.

Youth Chairman Gates reported that the judges for the Youth Achievement Contest consist of one RVP, one Regional Youth Chairman, and one AIS member at large. This year's judges were RVP Shirley Pope (1), Regional Youth Chairman Virginia Hodges (17), and member at large Hooker Nichols (22). Participation in the contest was up considerably with 17 individuals nominating 10 youths. The winner of the 1990 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement is Jerry Simmons (14), first runner-up is Sue Copeland (6), and second runner-up is Andrea Johnson (5). Gates also said he had received suggestions to alter the age designation for youth membership, one to lower the age limit to 16 or so and one to raise it to 21. She will report back to the board in the fall with a more definite proposal.

The meeting recessed at 3:35 p.m. and reconvened at 9:15 a.m. on May 21st.

Scientific Chairman McEwen reviewed two of the main functions of the scientific committee, to give answers to scientific questions and to support scientific endeavors. One source of funds for this support recently has been the Northshore Iris & Daylily Society. McEwen asked for a small grant for Amy Poole, a high school student in Illinois who is studying bacterial leaf spot and testing the efficacy of various antibiotics. Gates moved that \$200. be granted to Poole for this study. Niswonger seconded and the motion passed. McEwen introduced Dr. Norlan Henderson who has been carrying on the iris studies originally undertaken by Homer Metcalf. Henderson said he has been asked to do the section on the genus *Iris* for the "New Flora of North America", a 12 volume work in

progress. He outlined some of his work thus far, including the problem of the botanical classification of bearded irises. They are usually listed incorrectly as *I. germanica*. His proposal is to classify all bearded irises as *I. conglomerata*, reflecting the 43 species of irises which have figured in the ancestry of our current bearded irises. Hybrid Louisiana irises will be classified as *I. x louisiana* and the pacifica hybrids as *I. pacifica*.

Judges and Judges Training Chairman Crick reported that the new designation for master judges (active and retired) seems to be fairly well accepted. She reported a loss of 10 judges since November because of death or non-renewals.

Advertising Editor Nelson noted a record number of color advertisements were sold for the April issue, and the July issue will have a color centerfold.

Registrar Nelson reported that 400 new registrations have been received in 1990. Work is progressing on the ten-year checklist, and she will have a further report in the fall.

Foundation Liaison Pettijohn reported a \$14,000.00 increase to the fund balance resulting in a current balance of just over \$80,000.00. Both studies of scorch disease supported by the Foundation have been completed.

RVP Counselor Machulak reported on the RVP meeting held the previous evening. Four motions were approved during that meeting: (1) Recommend that an automatic runoff be held to award the Dykes Medal in any year that no iris receives the necessary 15%. (2) Recommend that the "Invitation to John" brochure be reprinted as soon as possible in the current form, but with the correct address for the Membership Secretary. (3) The chairman of the Washington, D.C., convention should be contacted to request that the RVP meeting be open ended, rather than have a time limitation. (4) RVPs shall be granted a vote at AIS Board meetings even if it is necessary to amend the by-laws to do so. Lineberger moved and Stayer seconded that motion #1 be considered under new business. Motion passed. After considerable discussion about motion #2, Williams moved that 5,000 copies of "Invitation to Join" be printed with the current address and be distributed with a limit of 25 per individual request and 200 per RVP request. Machulak seconded. Corlew moved to amend the motion to state that a quantity of 25,000 be printed. The amendment was seconded by Copeland and passed. The motion as amended was then passed. Lineberger moved that motion #4 be considered under new business. Stayer seconded and the motion passed. Machulak read the results of the elections held at the RVP meeting. James McWhirter (Region 14) is the new RVP chairman, Carol Morgan (Region 6) is secretary, and Melody Wilhoit (Region 9) and Doug Goodnight (Region 23) have been elected to serve on the Personnel Committee.

Section Liaison Lineberger reported that every Section President had attended the meeting held earlier. He commented on the high degree of interest in all the Sections and praised the excellent quality of Section publications. Lineberger reported that Joe Mertzweiler was elected as Section representative to the Personnel Committee.

The meeting was recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

Rasmussen gave an update on the iris postage stamp proposal. He sent Native American Iris flyers to each RVP to be mailed to their congressional representatives. He apologized for not sending the correct and complete addresses and said he would send the correct ones. He reiterated the need to keep pushing on the stamp proposal and urged members to make use of any personal contacts to enhance the chances of a stamp being approved. Rasmussen asked for reimbursement for postage expenses during this promotion. Copeland moved and Stayer seconded that the AIS pay the postage for Rasmussen's efforts. Motion passed. Rasmussen noted that there are still over a thousand flyers left and quite a few people have requested them. Rice-Waters moved that we sell the Native American Iris flyers in packs of 10 for \$3.50, with a quantity price of 50 for \$15.00. Rasmussen seconded and the motion carried.

The question of whether a species iris is eligible for Best Specimen of Show was raised. Stayer moved that we defer further discussion of the matter until SIGNA can come up with a proposal. Corlew seconded and the motion carried.

Kay Nelson, Keith Keppel, and Bennett Jones were proposed to serve on the honorary awards committee as at-large members. Corlew moved approval of the appointments; Niswonger seconded, and the motion carried.

Waite appointed Hal Stahly, Ron Mullin, James Rasmussen, and Keith Keppel to serve on a 75th Anniversary committee to investigate what the Society might like to do to celebrate the upcoming

anniversary. Niswonger moved for acceptance of the appointments. Rice-Waters seconded and the motion passed.

Rice-Waters said the wholesale price of the calendars needs to be increased. The "10 for \$25.00" price hasn't covered our costs. She moved that the individual price remain at \$5.00 each and the price for 10 be increased to \$30.00. Stayer seconded and the motion carried.

Convention Liaison Williams read a letter from the guest iris chairmen for the 1992 Atlanta convention that clarified guidelines for guest irises that were omitted from their ad in *Bulletin* #277. These guidelines state that unless otherwise directed, only 10 rhizomes of each variety will be returned postpaid, except to foreign addresses. Any additional rhizomes will either be destroyed or returned C.O.D. as instructed by the contributor on the disposal form. Williams then read an invitation from Region 20 asking to host the 1998 convention in Colorado. Williams moved acceptance of the invitation. Stayer seconded and the motion passed.

Discussion was opened on the proposal from the RVPs that a Dykes Medal be awarded every year and the petition, submitted to Board Members by Perry Dyer and a number of other AIS judges, which outlined a runoff system. The consensus was that some action is necessary, but a study of the awards system was probably in order. Corlew moved that the President appoint a "blue ribbon" committee to study the Dykes Medal Award situation and report back at the fall meeting. Rasmussen seconded. Williams moved to amend the motion so that for 1990 only a runoff ballot as proposed in the petition be implemented. (The petition reads: In the event that no single variety receives the required 15% of the total votes cast, a second (run-off) ballot will be ordered by the AIS Board of Directors. The top four candidates from the initial balloting will appear on this ballot, in addition to a fifth choice designated as "No Award".) Rasmussen seconded and the amendment passed. A vote was called for on the original motion and it carried.

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

Waite announced another IGA competition (5th International Horticulture Exhibition) will be held in Munich in 1993, and that he has information on entering.

The proposal from the RVPs to be granted a vote at AIS Board meetings was discussed. Niswonger moved to appoint a committee to investigate the possibility of granting a vote at the Board meetings to the RVPs. Stayer seconded. Discussion ensued as to when the committee would report back. Williams moved the motion be amended to add the words that an absolute and final proposal be presented at the fall Board meeting. Gates seconded. The amendment was defeated. The original motion passed.

Williams brought up the subject of the contract with American Airlines. The matter was discussed, but no action was taken. In reply to questions Stayer stated that the agreement with American Airlines is not binding and that a convention committee may enter into a contract with any other airline.

Copeland presented the report of the 1990 Personnel Committee for nominations for the Board of Directors with terms expiring in 1993: incumbents Gristwood, Stayer, and Lineberger, and to fill the fourth vacancy the committee presented two nominees, Bennett Jones and Jean Witt. There were no nominations from the floor. Waite called for an adjournment to executive session to consider the nominations. Following executive session, Waite announced that the nominees are Gristwood, Stayer, Lineberger, and Jones. Waite appointed Stayer and Lineberger to serve on the 1991 Personnel Committee.

Waite reminded everyone that the fall meeting of the Board would be held in Dallas, Texas, on November 2-4, 1990.

Waite thanked the Omaha Convention Committee and the Greater Omaha Iris Society for providing the meeting facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Catherine Long Gates
Recording Secretary, pro tem

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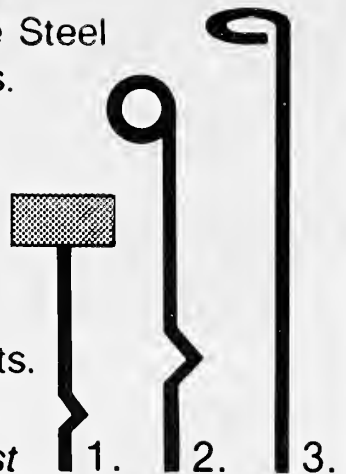
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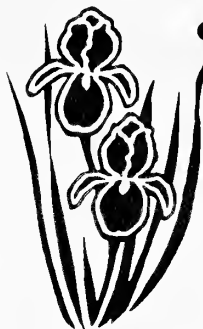
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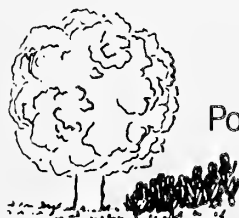
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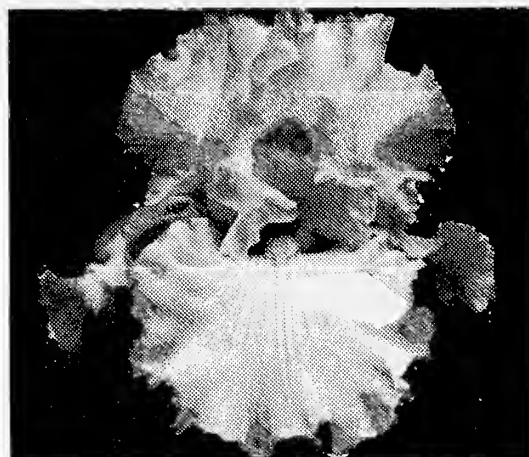
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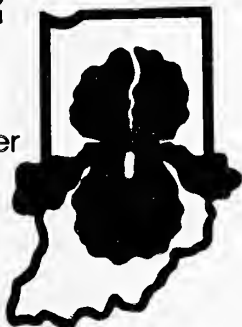
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Send advertising copy and check payable to The American Iris Society to:

Ms. Kay Nelson, Advertising Editor

P.O. Box 37613

Omaha, NE 68137

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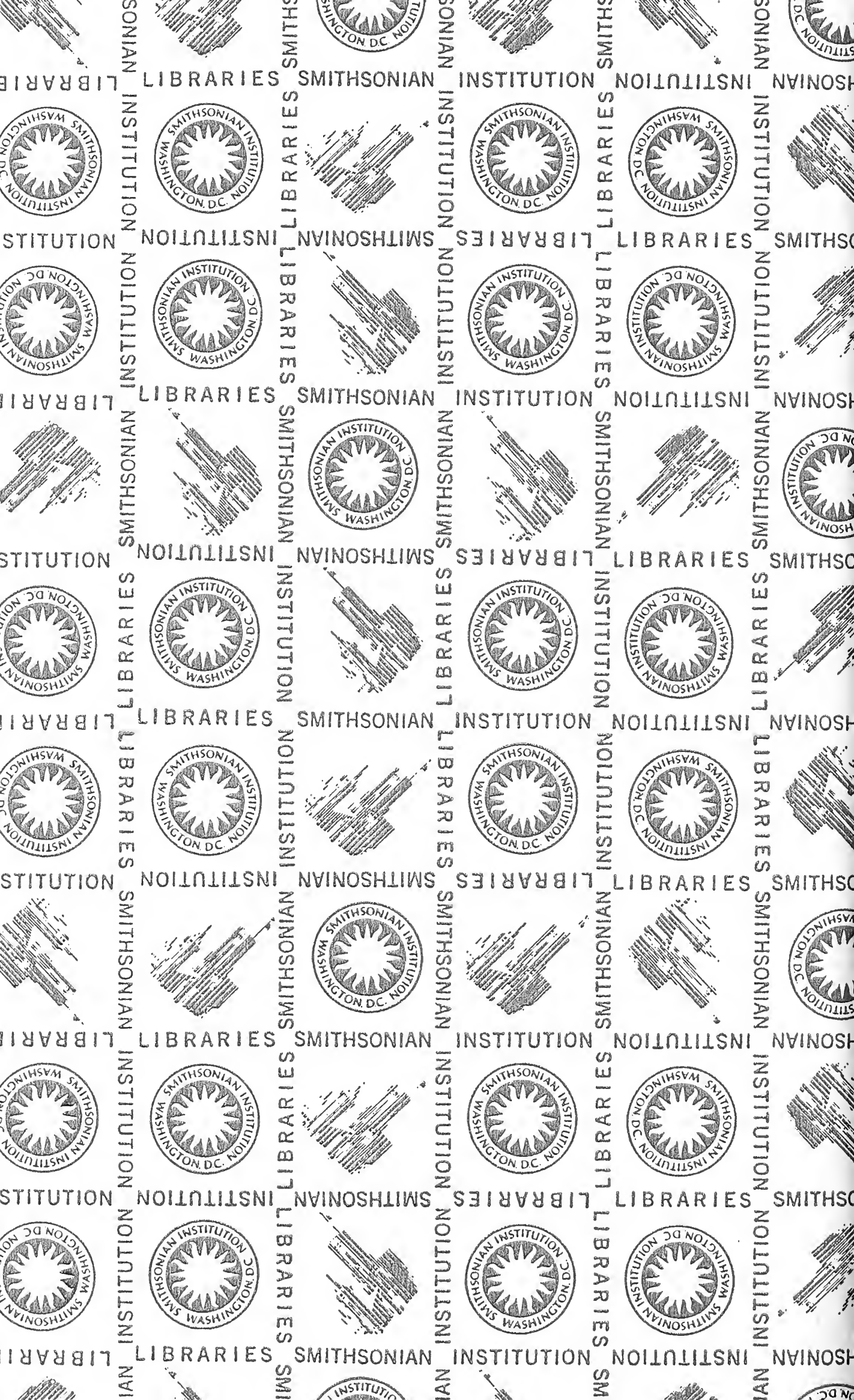
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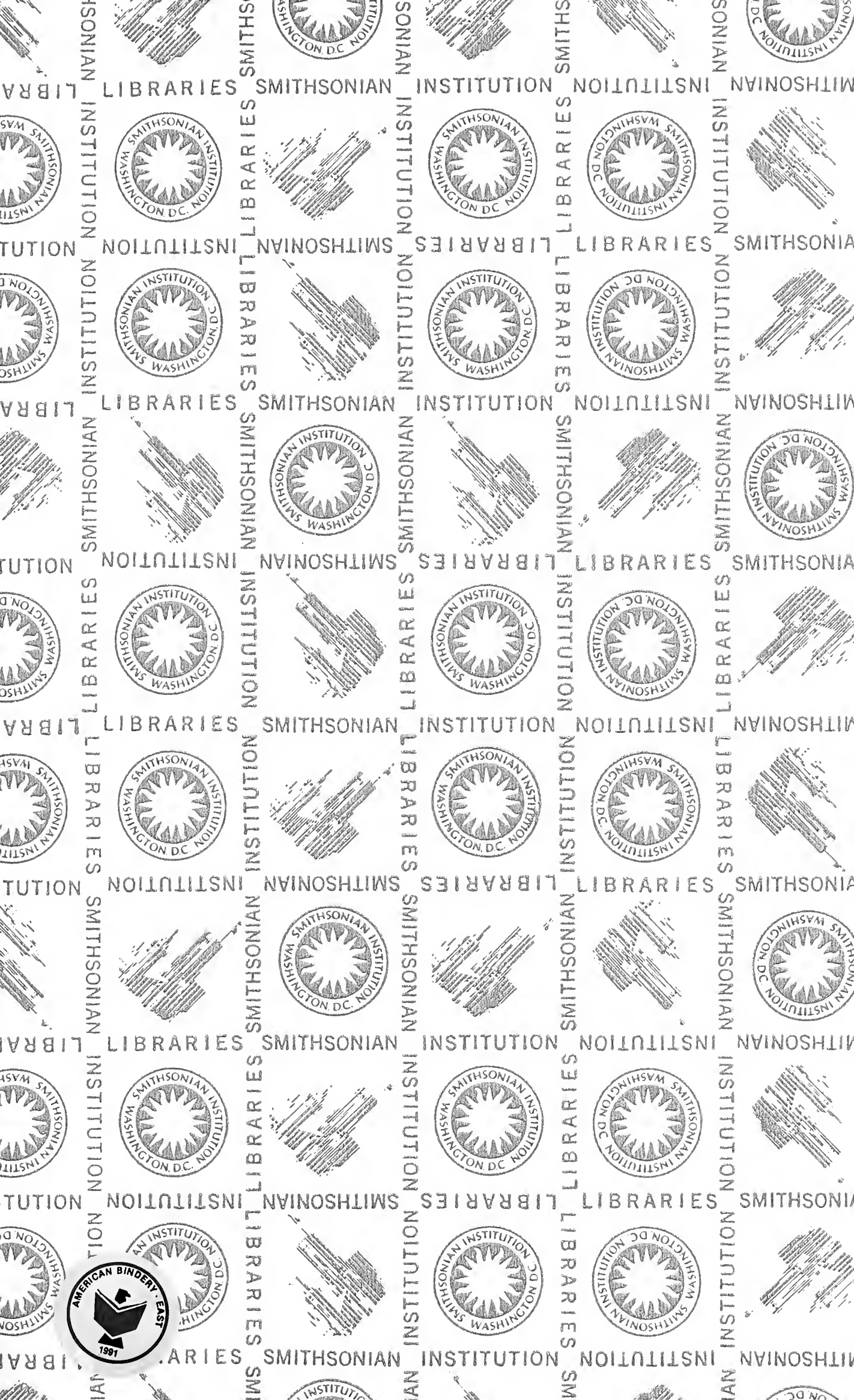
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